

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

CHRISTINE DAVIS

Plaintiff,

Case No.: 22-CV-05944 (KPF)

v.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

AMERICAN BROADCASTING
COMPANY (ABC); DELICIOUS NON-
SEQUITUR PRODUCTIONS; BLUE PARK
PRODUCTIONS; SHAVON SULLIVAN
WRIGHT; CHERISSE PARKS; JUSTIN
HALPERN; PATRICK SCHUMACKER;
and QUINTA BRUNSON,

SECOND AMENDED
COMPLAINT

Defendants.

-----X

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW Plaintiff Christine Davis (“Plaintiff” or “Ms. Davis”), and files this Complaint against Defendants the American Broadcasting Company (“ABC”), Delicious Non-Sequitur Productions (Non-Sequitur”), Blue Park Productions (“Blue Park”), Shavon Sullivan Wright (“Wright”), Cherisse Parks (“Parks”), Justin Halpern (“Halpern”), Patrick Schumacker (“Schumacker”), and Quinta Brunson (“Brunson”) (hereinafter collectively known as Defendants”) respectfully stating as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a civil action *Seeking* actual and statutory damages for copyright infringement arising under the copyright laws of the United States, 17 U.S.C. §101 *et seq.*, as amended (the Copyright Act”).
2. Plaintiff is the sole owner of work copyrighted pursuant to the Copyright Act under Registration No. PAu004020233. The work pertains to Plaintiff’s original scripted television series This School Year.

3. Defendants directed, produced, advertised, sold, and streamed the *Abbott Elementary* television series that premiered in December 2021 on Defendant ABC Television Network and HULU premium television channel and streaming service. *Abbott Elementary* is a veritable knock-off of Plaintiff's proposed television series *This School Year*.
4. Without Plaintiff's permission, license, authority or consent, Defendants knowingly and illegally used Plaintiff's works to create the *Abbott Elementary* television series.
5. Defendants' *Abbott Elementary* television series and the content protected by Plaintiff's registered copyrights are strikingly and substantially similar.
6. Defendants neither sought nor received permission from Plaintiff to utilize her *This School Year* work as the basis for *Abbott Elementary* series.
7. Defendants have made millions in profits from their knowing infringement of Plaintiff's copyrighted works.
8. As a result of Defendants' infringement of Plaintiff's copyrighted works, Plaintiff *Seeks* damages, including, *inter alia*, an accounting of profits by Defendants, damages and lost profits of Plaintiff, costs, and attorneys' fees; or, at Plaintiff's election, statutory damages. Plaintiff also *Seeks* equitable relief, including preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, and impoundment and destruction of the infringing articles, to prevent further violations of Plaintiff's rights under the Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 U.S.C § 101 et seq. Furthermore, because Defendants willfully and deliberately infringed upon Plaintiff's copyrighted works, Plaintiff *Seeks* an award of attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505 along with credit for creating and writing the original source material.

PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

9. Plaintiff is a resident of New York City, New York.

10. The American Broadcasting Company is a New York based corporation. It maintains corporate Headquarters in New York located at 77 West 66th Street, Fifth Floor, New York NY 10023-6298. AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANIES, INC. (DOS# 1095963) is a business entity registered with the State of New York, Department of State (NYSDOS). The business filing date is July 8, 1986.
11. Upon information and belief, Defendant Delicious Non-Sequitur Productions, LLC is a California based company with its principal place of business at 3783 COLLEGE AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92115-7013 (SAN DIEGO COUNTY). Delicious Non-Sequitur is registered as a Foreign Limited Liability Company in the State of Delaware. The corporation number is #3208109.
12. Upon information and belief, Defendant Blue Park Productions (hereafter “BPP”) is a Black woman owned production company that whose mission is to “[e]ncourage and train the next generation of black female identifying creatives so they can develop unique projects and their own media production companies.”
13. Blue Park Productions is an “incubator and facilitator for talented black women to sell their original ideas and series to television networks and streaming platforms.
14. BPP claims that “our collective has over 100 years of combined experience. Together we have over 10,000 hours of programming for major networks and produced over 100 series ranging from reality television to branded content movies.”
15. Upon information and belief, Defendant Shavon Sullivan Wright is a New Jersey resident who resides in the State of New Jersey.
16. Upon information and belief, Defendant Cherisse Parks is a Pittsburgh resident who resides in the State of Pennsylvania.

17. Upon information and belief, Defendant Patrick Schumacker is a California resident who resides in Los Angeles, California.
18. Upon information and belief, Defendant Justin Halpern is a California resident who resides in Los Angeles, California.
19. Upon information and belief, Defendant Quinta Brunson is a California resident who resides in Los Angeles, California.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

20. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332 and 1338(a).
21. This Court has personal jurisdiction over each of the Defendants because Defendants have conducted business in the State of New York and purposefully availed themselves of the benefits and laws of the State of New York.
22. Upon information and belief, examples of Defendants ABC, Brunson, Schumaker and Halpern conducting business in the State of New York and purposefully availing themselves of the benefits and laws of the State of New York include producing, marketing, promoting, selling, and streaming the *Abbott Elementary* television series throughout the State of New York.
23. Upon information and belief, examples of Defendant BPP conducting business in New York include “the creation and production of over 10,000 hours of programming for network television.” (See BPP Mission Statement attached hereto as Exhibit A). attached hereto.
24. Upon information and belief, examples of Defendant Wright conducting business in New York include producing multiple television shows for network television including for

Defendant ABC, along with Hulu, Starz, Netflix and many others. (See Defendant Wright's Work Credits attached hereto as Exhibit B).

25. Upon information and belief, examples of Defendant Parks conducting business in New York include producing television shows for BET, NBC, CBS, MTV, ABC and others. (See Defendant Parks Work Credits attached hereto as Exhibit C.)
26. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c), and 1400(a).

FACTS

A. Ms. Davis Created and Owns the Copyrighted Works.

27. Plaintiff is a rising Jamaican American writer, actor and performer in NYC. Plaintiff is also a licensed New York City School teacher. She has been working in education for over seven years and is entering her eighth year of teaching in the New York City public school system.
28. Plaintiff comes from a family of teachers. Four of them are veteran teachers each with over 15 years of experience. The dedication of her family members inspired Plaintiff as a teacher and as a writer and was the primary motivation for creating *TSY*.
29. The lead character in *TSY*, Ms. Camille Davis is named after Plaintiff's cousin who inspired Plaintiff and pushed her to become a teacher after she volunteered in her cousin's classroom.
30. Plaintiff created This School Year based on her experience as a licensed New York City school teacher.
31. Many of the show's elements, characters, plot lines and scenarios come directly from her daily teaching experiences and encounters with other teachers, her school's administration, and her students.

32. In addition to teaching, Plaintiff, is, and has been for many years, a step coach. She teaches children how to perform and execute complicated step routines. This aspect of the Plaintiff's life was co-opted by defendants into the story lines of *Abbott Elementary* who placed a step coach story line for the lead character into their show.
33. Ms. Davis created This School Year (*TSY*) in 2018 and registered it on March 6, 2020, with the United States Copyright Office under Copyright Registration No. PAu004020233: (the "Copyrighted Works" or "Works").
34. Plaintiff's Copyrighted Works are registered as a "Work of the Performing Arts."
35. Plaintiff also registered *TSY* with the Writers Guild of America ("WGA") on March 6, 2020, under Registrations ID No. 2044382. (See WGA Registration ID Summaries, attached hereto as Exhibit D).

B. There is a substantial similarity between Plaintiff's This School Year and Defendants' *Abbott Elementary*

36. *TSY* is a television comedy set in New York City P.S. (public school) 311. In the pilot script created by Ms. Davis, the three lead characters are excited to commence their second year as teachers. Still 'newbies,' they are bright, witty, engaged and ambitious to perform their duties. However, upon arriving at the school they learn that there is a new principal. Shortly thereafter they discover that the new principal has blown a significant portion of the school budget to hire filmmakers to create a documentary of the school. This leads to *TSY*'s mockumentary, single-camera style.
37. While the mockumentary style has been used in other television shows – most notably in the television series *The Office* – it had never been used to capture the unique characters and characteristics of a public elementary school.

38. There is constant tension in *TSY* between an oblivious, self-aggrandizing new principal who is convinced everything is going well while the new teachers – including the lead character, Ms. Davis – are left to struggle and face insurmountable daily difficulties while remaining dedicated to their profession. The principal insists that the school is well-controlled and that the teachers and students will adhere to her agenda. However, the teachers, staff and students have their own agenda, especially Ms. Davis, the main character.
39. In *TSY*, the lead character, Ms. Davis, is a young, idealistic teacher hoping to get tenure for herself meanwhile battling to convince colleagues that the school needs to be reformed.
40. The conflict between her passion and the powers that be is the core of *TSY*.
41. For example, as Ms. Davis struggles with the paucity of support and supplies, the principal decides it is more important to spend the school funds to hire a film crew than it is to purchase books and school supplies.
42. Likewise, in *Abbott Elementary* there is a constant tension between an oblivious, self-aggrandizing new principal – in one episode she uses school funds to create a banner with her image on it – while the new teachers are left to struggle and face daily challenges while they remain dedicated to their profession.
43. The slug lines are identical. The plots are identical. The settings are identical except for the fact that Plaintiff's inner-city school is in New York City (*TSY*) and the defendants' inner-city school is in Philadelphia.
44. When Plaintiff pitched her script to Defendant Blue Park Productions, she presented one plot where the new principal steals the lead character's cherished desk, igniting a quest to *Seek* its return.

45. One of the main plot lines in the initial episode of *Abbott Elementary*, the new principal steals the lead character's cherished classroom rug, also igniting a quest to get her rug returned.
46. The main characters are also identical in tenor, tone and relationship to each other. The names are different but everything else about the characters is clearly lifted from Plaintiff's copyrighted work.
47. A listing of the numerous and substantial similarities between the Plaintiff's *TSY* and Defendants' *Abbott Elementary* is attached hereto as Exhibit E).

C. The Defendants Had Access to Plaintiff's Copyrighted Work.

48. In mid-June through July of 2020, the Plaintiff contacted Shavon Sullivan Wright and Cherisse Parks at Blue Park Productions *Seeking* a production company to assist in bringing her copyrighted show to market.
49. Plaintiff had researched Defendants BPP, Parks and Wright and was excited by their mission statement, which was to "[e]ncourage and train the next generation of black female identifying creatives so they can develop unique projects and their own media production companies."
50. Defendants BPP, Parks and Wright told Plaintiff that BPP is an "incubator and facilitator for talented black women to sell their original ideas and series to television networks and streaming platforms."
51. Defendants BPP, Parks and Wright told Plaintiff that they had substantial experience programming for network television and had produced over 100 series for TV. Defendants Parks and Wright specifically told Plaintiff that they had "connections" with ABC and Hulu.

52. From their initial contact, Defendants BPP, Parks and Wright held themselves out to Plaintiff as professional producers who would work with her to help her develop her television show.
53. On June 15, 2020, Defendant Wright sent a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to the Plaintiff for signature.
54. On June 15, 2020, Plaintiff signed and returned the NDA to Defendant Wright.
55. On June 15, 2020, under cover of separate email, Plaintiff emailed a copy of her script for *TSY* and the “story bible” to Defendant Wright.
56. Over the course of the next month, the Plaintiff and Blue Park Productions had at least three meetings regarding Plaintiff’s script for *TSY*.
57. On June 16, 2020, Defendant Wright acknowledged receipt of the script via email.
58. On June 21, 2020, Defendant Wright wrote to Plaintiff telling her that they needed more time to read the script “in depth.”
59. On June 30, 2022, Plaintiff emailed Defendants with updates to the script and story ideas for episodes.
60. On July 12, 2020, Defendant Wright emailed the Plaintiff to set a meeting for that Friday.
61. The meeting between Plaintiff and Defendants Park and Wright was held via Zoom on July 12, 2020.
62. Defendants Wright and Parks reiterated their excitement regarding Plaintiff’s script and story idea for *TSY*.
63. Defendants Wright and Parks told the Plaintiff that they would be able to present her work to noteworthy television outlets including HULU, ABC, and others.

64. Defendants Wright and Parks repeatedly expressed that they had connections at HULU and were aware that HULU and ABC were looking for Black, female-led comedies.
65. Defendants Wright and Parks gave Plaintiff “notes” on the script and promised that they would meet again after Plaintiff incorporated their notes and returned a revised script to them.
66. Defendants Wright and Parks urged Plaintiff to make revisions quickly so that they could present her idea to these outlets during upcoming pitch season.¹
67. Plaintiff went straight to work incorporated the revisions and notes from Defendants Wright and Parks.
68. Plaintiff sent the revised script to Blue Park Productions.
69. Plaintiff waited for a response from Defendants Wright and Parks.
70. To this day, Defendants Wright and Parks have never responded.
71. It was during this time that upon information and belief, Defendants Wright, Parks and Blue Park Productions took Plaintiff’s script and storybook and presented *TSY* to their “connections” at HULU, ABC and others.
72. In September 2020, just months after Plaintiff met with Defendants Wright and Parks, ABC committed to a “put pilot,” for a new, mockumentary style Black female lead comedy based on public school teachers struggling to manage their careers, their students, and the never-ending challenges of public-school administrators.
73. In February of 2021, ABC gave the project an official pilot order and pre-production began follow by production of the pilot episode.
74. In May 2021, ABC ordered the full season of the new project.

¹ The annual life cycle for network television includes a summer “pitch season” when creatives pitch ideas to networks and other outlets, followed by offers, pre-production and production of pilots.

75. On August 16, 2021, Defendants Delicious Non-Sequitur Productions and ABC Television commenced production on *Abbott Elementary*, a new, Black, female-led comedy with all the aforementioned similarities to Plaintiff's script and story bible for *TSY*.

D. Defendant Brunson's Pitched her "Idea" for a TV Show After Plaintiff Met with Defendants BPP, Parks and Wright

76. Defendant Brunson pitched the concept for *Abbott Elementary* (originally *Harritty Elementary*) to ABC in September of 2020 – 4 months after Plaintiff presented her script and story bible to Defendants BPP, Parks and Wright.

77. Defendant Brunson has publicly stated that she did not have a script when she pitched the concept to ABC.

78. Defendant Brunson states: "ABC was the one we wanted to sell to, and we sold it to ABC. After that [there] was more development, developing the pilot, because at that point all you have is your pitch document. I didn't sell a pilot; I just sold the pitch." (*See* Defendant Brunson's Press Excerpt attached here to as Exhibit F).

E. There is a Substantial Connection Between Defendants ABC Television and Defendants Wright and Parks.

79. Defendant BPP advertises itself as a Black woman owned production company that whose mission is to "[e]ncourage and train the next generation of black female identifying creatives so they can develop unique projects and their own media production companies."

80. BPP is an "incubator and facilitator for talented black women to sell their original ideas and series to television networks and streaming platforms."

81. BPP claims that “our collective has over 100 years of combined experience. Together we have over 10,0000 hours of programming for major networks and produced over 100 series ranging from reality television to branded content movies.”
82. Defendant Shavon Wright, who has refused to respond to Plaintiff’s Amended Complaint, is a television producer with substantial network television credits.
83. After being served with Plaintiff’s complaint, Defendant Wright shut down her website for BPP.
84. Fortunately, Plaintiff had captured screen shots from BPP describing Defendants’ BPP, Parks and Wright’s Mission, History and Purpose enabling Plaintiff to present this evidence. (*See* Defendant BPP’s Mission Statement Attached hereto as Exhibits A *supra*).
85. Defendant Wright’s credits include producing television shows in 2019 and 2020 for ABC TV and 2021 and 2022 for Hulu. (*See* Defendant Wrights Work Credits attached hereto as Exhibit B *supra*.)
86. Defendant Parks has also produced numerous network television shows including for Defendant ABC TV. (*See* Defendant Parks’ Work Credits attached hereto as Exhibit C *supra*.)

**F. There is a Strong Connection Between Defendants
Brunson and Defendant Wright**

87. Defendant Quinta Brunson worked as a full-time employee at BuzzFeed from 2014 until 2018 where she “wrote, produced and starred in many sketches.” (*See* Exhibit G attached hereto).
88. Defendant Wright also had a substantial role at BuzzFeed during this time. In 2017, she was production coordinator for a full season where she “Created a 3.1 million budget for the

Netflix series *In the Know*.” She “Collaborated with BuzzFeed executives to launch weekly serialized show.” (See Exhibit G attached hereto).

89. Furthermore, Defendants Wright and Brunson are alumnae of the same alma mater: Temple University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**G. Defendants Knowingly and Willfully Infringed
Ms. Davis’s Copyrighted Work.**

90. In addition to the number of characters, storylines, and scenes that are strikingly and substantially similar, Defendants *Abbott Elementary* also copied the look and feel of the inner-city school, the mockumentary style, unique plot synopsis, set design and unique characters from the Plaintiff’s Copyrighted Work without authorization or consent.

91. Several scenes and lines in *Abbott Elementary* involve discrete, identical copying from Plaintiff’s Copyrighted Work – any one of which clearly demonstrates that the *Abbott Elementary* scenes are direct copies of *TSY*.

92. Plaintiff drew upon her own experiences as a teacher to create the pilot script and story bible for *TSY*. The depth, richness and authenticity of the characters and plot lines were drawn from her own life and professional experiences.

93. One stunning example is that the Plaintiff is a long time “step coach.” *Abbott Elementary* stole this concept and created an episode where Defendant Brunson’s character claims that she is a step coach and teaches step to her children.

94. There are numerous other examples of the striking similarity between the *TSY* and *Abbott Elementary*.

95. One or two similarities could be coincidence but the number and depth of similarities between Plaintiff’s copyrighted work and the series Defendants television series can only be deliberate.

96. Attached hereto as Exhibit “H” is a copy of the synopsis and first episode breakdown of Plaintiff’s script for *TSY* and Defendants *Abbott Elementary* synopsis where one can *See* the substantial and striking similarities between the two works.
97. The similarities between Plaintiff’s copyrighted work and Defendants’ *Abbott Elementary* are even more striking when one reviews the initial concept pitched by Defendant Brunson to Defendant ABC.
98. Defendant Brunson’s original script was titled *Harrity Elementary*. Defendant Brunson submitted a script and a synopsis of *Harrity Elementary* to Defendant ABC.
99. The synopsis for *Harrity Elementary* is even closer to Plaintiff’s copyright work.
100. Harrity Elementary “follows a group of teachers brought together in one of the worst public schools in the country simply because they love teaching. They will relay on one another to make it through the day and find a way to counteract the school district’s bullsh*t attitude towards educating children.” (*See* copy of the Harrity Synopsis attached hereto as Exhibit I).

COUNT I
(Defendants’ infringement of Copyright
Registration No. PAu004020233)

101. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the assertions contained in the paragraphs above.
102. Plaintiff owns all rights, title, and interest in and to Plaintiff’s U.S. Copyright Registration No. PAu004020233 (“PAu004020233”).
103. Defendants, without permission, license, authorization, or consent from Plaintiff, have copied, sold, distributed, advertised and streamed and are currently copying, selling, distributing, advertising, and streaming *Abbott Elementary*, which is strikingly and substantially similar to, and based upon, PAu004020233.

104. With knowledge of Plaintiff's Copyright Work PAu004020233. Defendants have rendered substantial assistance to each other's acts of infringement as described above and are each thus jointly and severally liable for the infringement of PAu004020233.
105. Defendants have thereby knowingly infringed PAu004020233.
106. Defendants' infringing acts were committed with knowledge or in reckless disregard of Plaintiff's rights in PAu004020233 under the Copyright Act.
107. The aforementioned acts by Defendants have damaged and, if not enjoined, will continue to damage Plaintiff, and cause irreparable harm for which Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.
108. Plaintiff is thus entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502 prohibiting Defendants from infringing Plaintiff's copyrights, including but not limited to an injunction prohibiting Defendants from (a) imitating, copying, or making any unauthorized use of PAu004020233 in any manner, and from publishing, distribution, selling, marketing, building, or otherwise disposing of any copies of PAu004020233, and for making any derivative works of PAu004020233 in the form of a second series or otherwise; (b) manufacturing, producing, distributing, circulating, selling offering for sale, advertising, promoting, or displaying any copy or colorable imitation of Plaintiff's registered copyright PAu004020233; and (c) using any simulation, reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation of Plaintiff's copyright PAu004020233, in connection with the promotion, advertisement, display, sale, offering for sale, manufacture, production, distribution, circulation or distribution of any product or service.

109. Defendants' intentional and unlawful copying of PAu004020233 has allowed them to receive profits and gains to which they are not entitled.
110. Upon information and belief, Defendants have made substantial profits and gains from *Abbott Elementary* that they are not entitled to retain.
111. Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants all damages Plaintiff has and may later sustain due to Defendants' improper conduct copying of PAu004020233, or statutory fees at Plaintiff's election, in an amount to be proven at trial, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.
112. The actions of Defendants have been willful and deliberate and justify an award of attorneys' fees and costs to Plaintiff pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.
113. Plaintiff is also *Seeking* public acknowledgement of her original story idea and writing and creator credit for her work.

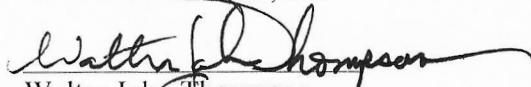
WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

- a. Enter judgement that Defendants have infringed upon Plaintiff's copyrighted works;
- b. Direct Defendants to pay Plaintiff such damages as the jury determines Plaintiff has sustained in consequence of Defendants' infringing Plaintiff's copyrights, and to account for all gains, profits, and advantages derived by Defendants by their infringements of Plaintiff's copyrights under 17 U.S.C. § 504(b), or at Plaintiff's election, statutory damages under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c);
- c. Preliminary and permanently enjoin Defendants, their officers, directors, agents, partners, employees and related companies, and all persons acting for, with, by, through, or under them, from copying streaming, reproducing, distributing, advertising, promoting, offering for sale, or selling *Abbott Elementary* or any other work

- substantially similar to the Copyrighted Work, including production, publication, distribution, sale, and/or marketing of a second “*Abbott Elementary*” series;
- d. Order Defendants to deliver up to be impounded during the pendency of this lawsuit under 17 U.S.C. § 503 all copies of the Copyrighted Works in Defendants’ possession or under Defendants’ control and to deliver up for destruction all infringing copies, including but not limited to the immediate ceasing of any *Abbott Elementary* streaming on any streaming platform;
 - e. Direct Defendants to pay Plaintiff costs of this lawsuit and her reasonable attorneys’ fees allowable to her by the Court under 17 U.S.C. § 505;
 - f. Award Plaintiff such other and further relief as the Court may consider appropriate; and
 - g. Plaintiff requests a jury trial as to all matters other than the equitable remedies sought herein.

Respectfully submitted this 31st day of March 2023.

THOMPSON LAW, P.C.



Walter John Thompson
New York State Bar No. 3390562

565 Fifth Avenue, Suite 721

New York, New York 10017

Telephone: (646) 922-8900

Facsimile: (212) 672-1131

wjt@thompsonlawnyc.com

Counsel for the Plaintiff Christine Davis

EXHIBIT A

BLUE PARK PRODUCTIONS MISSION STATEMENT

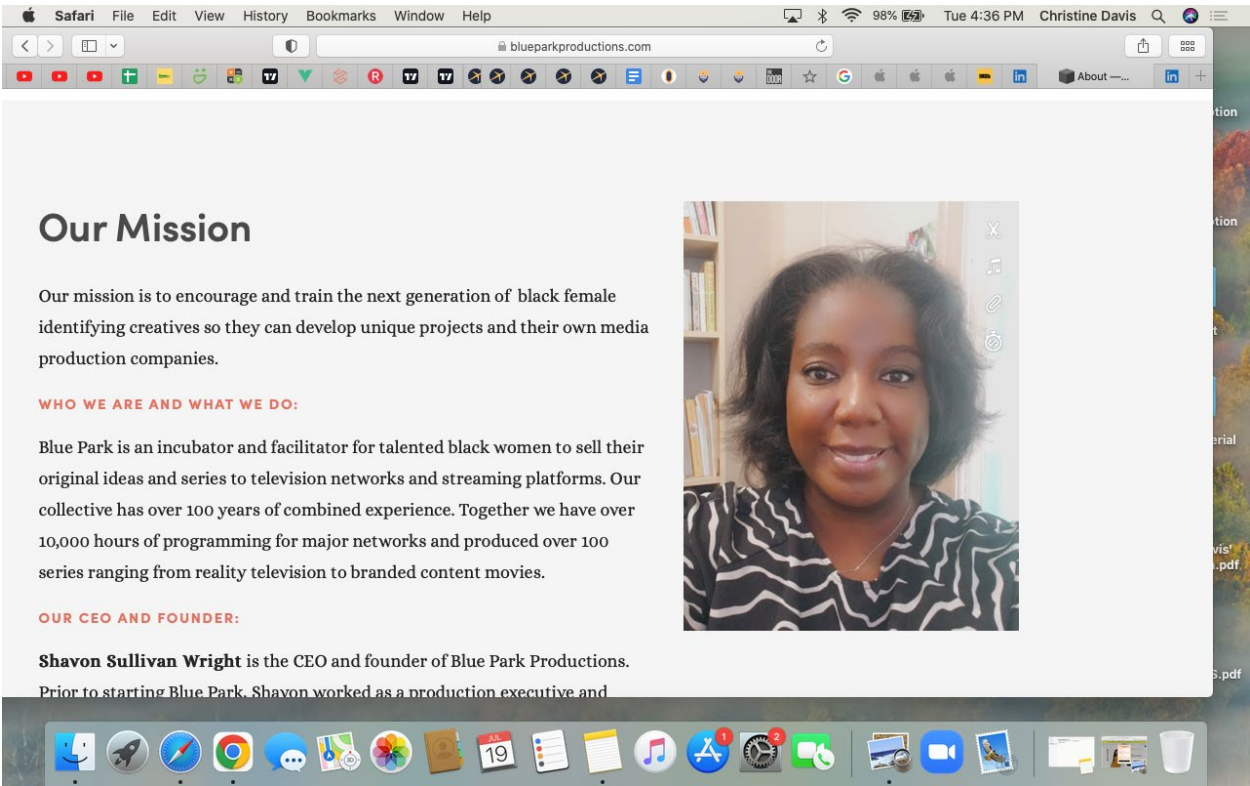


EXHIBIT B

SHAVON WRIGHT WORK CREDITS (partial)

The screenshot shows the StaffMeUp profile of Shavon Wright, a Line Producer based in New York, NY. The profile includes a header with the user's name and location, a 'Summary' tab, and a 'Credits' section listing various production roles and dates. The 'Credits' section lists the following roles and dates:

Role	Production Company	Period
Line Producer - Untitled (Season 1)	Hulu — TV — Lone Wolf Media	2/22 – 9/22
Line Producer - Wild Crime (Season 2)	Hulu — TV — Lone Wolf Media	2/22 – 9/22
Line Producer - Wild Crime (Season 1)	ABC — TV — Lone Wolf Media	7/20 – 1/21
Line Producer - Wrong Man (Season 2)	Starz — TV — @radical.media	8/19 – 11/19
Head of Production		...

This screenshot shows the same StaffMeUp profile for Shavon Wright, but with the 'Credits' section expanded to show more roles. The 'Credits' section lists the following roles and dates:

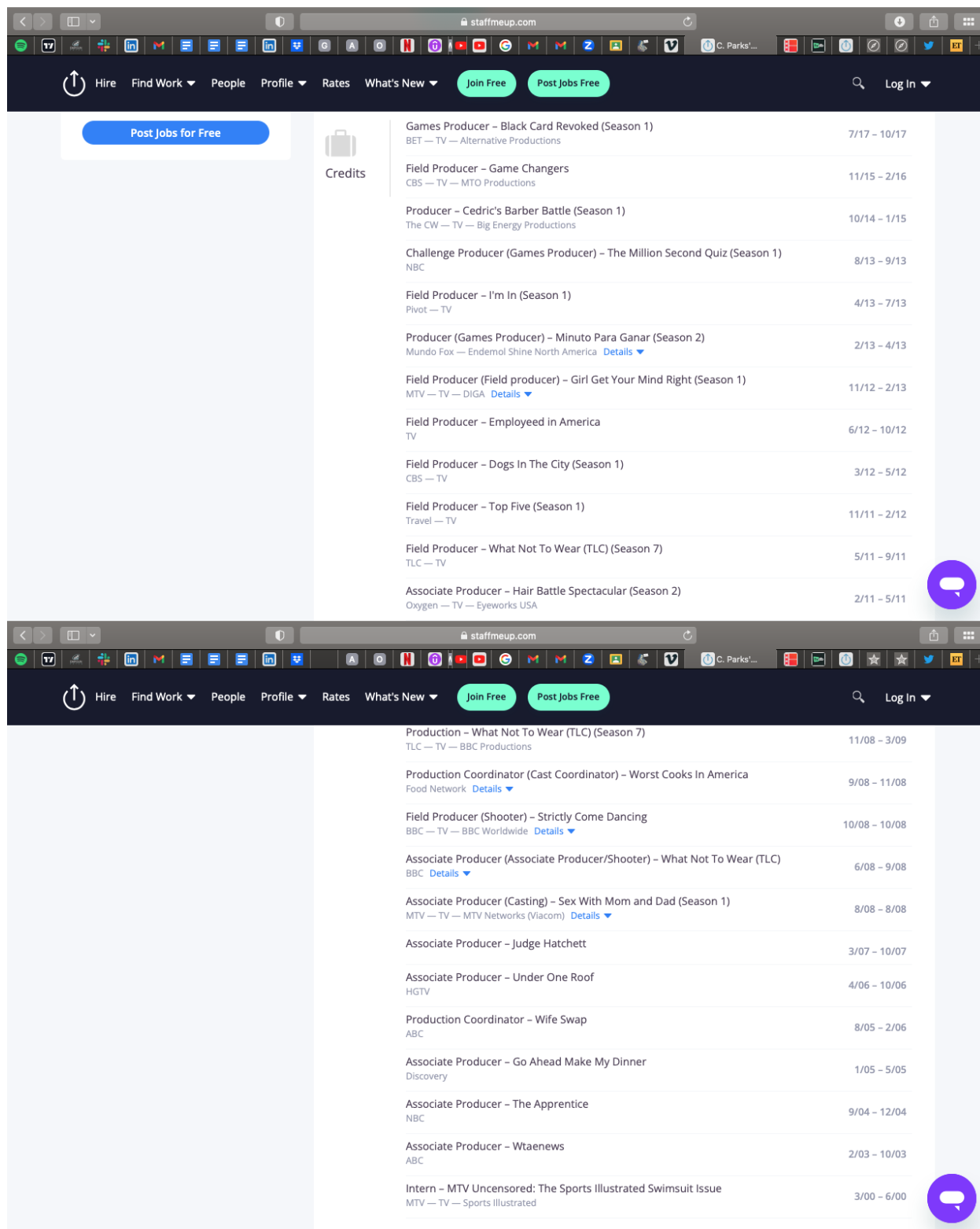
Role	Production Company	Period
Line Producer - Untitled (Season 1)	Hulu — TV — Lone Wolf Media	2/22 – 9/22
Line Producer - Wild Crime (Season 2)	Hulu — TV — Lone Wolf Media	2/22 – 9/22
Line Producer - Wild Crime (Season 1)	ABC — TV — Lone Wolf Media	7/20 – 1/21
Line Producer - Wrong Man (Season 2)	Starz — TV — @radical.media	8/19 – 11/19
Head of Production	Staff Position — alecia.com	6/18 – 5/19
Executive in Charge (EIC)	Staff Position — Roller Coaster Road	12/17 – 7/18
Director of Production	Staff Position — Atlas Media Corp	7/17 – 4/18
Production Consultant - Follow This (Season 1)	Netflix — TV — BuzzFeed	9/17 – 12/17

Below the credits, there is a summary of Shavon's work experience:

- Created \$3.1 million budget for Netflix series In the Know • Articulated goals of the show's creative team to create efficient production schedule and elevate production value • Collaborated with BuzzFeed executives to launch weekly serialized show

EXHIBIT C

CHERRISSE PARKS WORK CREDITS (partial)



The image shows a screenshot of the staffmeup.com website, specifically the 'Credits' section for a user named Cherisse Parks. The page is displayed in a web browser window. The top navigation bar includes links for Hire, Find Work, People, Profile, Rates, What's New, and buttons for Join Free and Post Jobs Free. A search icon and Log In link are also present. The main content area is titled 'Credits' and lists various production credits for Cherisse Parks, including roles like Games Producer, Field Producer, Producer, Challenge Producer, and Associate Producer, along with the production names and dates. The credits are listed in a table format with columns for the role, production name, and dates. The table is partially visible, showing credits from 7/17 - 10/17 down to 3/00 - 6/00. A 'View Fewer Credits' link is at the bottom of the list.

Role	Production	Dates
Games Producer	Black Card Revoked (Season 1)	7/17 - 10/17
Field Producer	Game Changers	11/15 - 2/16
Producer	Cedric's Barber Battle (Season 1)	10/14 - 1/15
Challenge Producer (Games Producer)	The Million Second Quiz (Season 1)	8/13 - 9/13
Field Producer	I'm In (Season 1)	4/13 - 7/13
Producer (Games Producer)	Minuto Para Ganar (Season 2)	2/13 - 4/13
Field Producer (Field producer)	Girl Get Your Mind Right (Season 1)	11/12 - 2/13
Field Producer	Employee in America	6/12 - 10/12
Field Producer	Dogs In The City (Season 1)	3/12 - 5/12
Field Producer	Top Five (Season 1)	11/11 - 2/12
Field Producer	What Not To Wear (TLC) (Season 7)	5/11 - 9/11
Associate Producer	Hair Battle Spectacular (Season 2)	2/11 - 5/11
Production	What Not To Wear (TLC) (Season 7)	11/08 - 3/09
Production Coordinator (Cast Coordinator)	Worst Cooks In America	9/08 - 11/08
Field Producer (Shooter)	Strictly Come Dancing	10/08 - 10/08
Associate Producer (Associate Producer/Shooter)	What Not To Wear (TLC)	6/08 - 9/08
Associate Producer (Casting)	Sex With Mom and Dad (Season 1)	8/08 - 8/08
Associate Producer	Judge Hatchett	3/07 - 10/07
Associate Producer	Under One Roof	4/06 - 10/06
Production Coordinator	Wife Swap	8/05 - 2/06
Associate Producer	Go Ahead Make My Dinner	1/05 - 5/05
Associate Producer	The Apprentice	9/04 - 12/04
Associate Producer	Wtaenews	2/03 - 10/03
Intern	MTV Uncensored: The Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue	3/00 - 6/00




[View Fewer Credits](#)


EXHIBIT D

PLAINTIFF’S WGA AND COPYRIGHT REGISTRATION RECEIPTS

Registration Confirmation

Inbox x








ipr@wga.org

to me

Fri, Mar 6, 2020, 8:09 PM



Confirmation for registration number: 2044382

Effective Date: 3/6/2020
Expiration Date: 3/6/2025

Title: This School Year
Filename: This School Year - PILOT.pdf

Registrant: Christine Davis
Amount Charged: 20
Credit Card #: XXXXXXXXXX-9076

Confirmation has been sent to all email addresses provided for this transaction.

Should you have any questions regarding your renewal transaction, please send a copy of your photo ID along with your written request to the WGAW Registry at 7000 West Third Street, Los Angeles, California 90048 or directly to our office by fax to (323) 782-4803.

Sincerely,
WGAWEST Registry

EXHIBIT D

PLAINTIFF’S WGA AND COPYRIGHT REGISTRATION RECEIPTS

Copyright

United States Copyright Office

Home

My Profile

Help

Contact Us

Log Out

Check Registration Case Status

Open Cases

Working Cases

All Cases

My Company's Cases

Status Definitions

Search My Cases

My Applications

My Company's Applications

Copyright Registration

Register a Work

Standard Application

This Application may NOT be used to submit "Unpublished Collections." You must select "Register a Group of Unpublished Works" below to register multiple unpublished works

Other Registration Options

Note: Restrictions Apply

Register Certain Groups of Published Works

Register a Group of Photographs

Register a Group of Unpublished Works

Register One Work by One Author

Correct or Amplify an Existing Registration

Other Services

Note: Substantial Fees Required

Preregistration of Certain Types of Work

Miscellaneous

Use an Existing Template

All Cases

Below is a list of all cases you have initiated. Refer to the status column to differentiate between cases you have not yet submitted to the Copyright Office, those that are in-process in the Office, and those that have been completed.

Click on the Status Definitions link in the right top most navigation menu for a complete list of case status definitions.

To view additional details about a case, click on the corresponding Case # hyperlink below.

All Cases

Query

1 - 1 of 1

Case #	Status	Opened	Title	Month Year	Type of Case	Appl. Format	Appl. Form	Fee Paid
1-8615423361	Closed	03/06/2020	This School Year and 8 Other Unpublished Works		Work of the Performing Arts	Standard	Group Unpublished Works	\$55.00

22

EXHIBIT E

Substantial Similarities Plot, Characters, Dialogue, Setting and Theme

1. Both works have *young, African American, female, lead characters* who are enthusiastic about teaching but frustrated by the system.
 - In *This School Year*, the lead character is Ms. Davis: “Hi, my name is Camille Davis and I’m a second-year teacher. Last year was quite the journey for me but I’m back another year stronger and wiser...I’m looking forward to growth and success with our students. I’m excited to be teaching social studies again.
 - In *Abbott Elementary*, the lead character is Ms. Teagues: “I’m Janine Teagues. I’ve been teaching second grade here at *Abbott Elementary* for a year now. And as a product of the Philadelphia school system, I’m proud to say I survived and now teach here today.”
2. In both works, *the main characters use nearly identical speeches* to express their frustration and their optimism about teaching in a challenging inner-city school.
 - In *This School Year*, Ms. Davis says, “You know I love the kids. Last year was rough, but I’m feeling optimistic about *This School Year*.”
 - In *Abbott Elementary*, Ms. Teagues mimics her frustration and hopefulness, “Look, I know this school is rough, but I became a teacher to make sure students come out alive. And after learning a lot in my first year, I finally feel on top of things.”
3. In both works, *the lead characters are step coaches*. Not chess club, not cheerleading, not school paper coaches but step coaches, a rarer and more unique talent.
 - In *This School Year*, Ms. Davis is mistakenly asked to lead the cheer team: “Hey, Ms. Davis, I was wondering if you can lead the school culture committee since you already have the cheer team and all?” Ms. Davis corrects her: “Hey Ms. Lyons. Of course. Step Team. It’s a Step Team. It is per session, right?”
 - In *Abbott Elementary*, episode 9, titled “Step Class” shows Ms. Teagues as the school’s step coach and she teaches the children how to step.
4. Both works use the same name for the main character’s love interest.
 - In *This School Year*, the Plaintiff comically named her main character’s love interest Mr. Wright.

- In *Abbott Elementary*, the character with the crush on the lead is named Gregory Eddie. However, in the initial draft for the pilot, Defendant Brunson also named her main character’s love interest Mr. Gregory Wright.

5. Both works initial episodes *have the same theme of set up and disappointment* about a “Big Surprise” in their opening episode:

- When Ms. Davis in *This School Year* finds out the big “surprise” is a new principal she exclaims: “I honestly thought the surprise was for new textbooks, supplies...You know the necessities for our children.”
- Ms. Teagues in *Abbott Elementary* thinks the “surprise” is going to be supplies for her children and a rug for her classroom but is shocked when the surprise is revealed to be a billboard for the school with the principal’s picture prominently displayed.

5. Both works *have opening episodes with substantial plot points that center around the lead characters losing a crucial piece of their classroom furniture* and devising a plan to retrieve them.

- In *This School Year*, Ms. Davis' desk is taken from her classroom.
- In *Abbott Elementary*, Ms. Teagues loses her rug and spends the episode attempting to get a replacement.

6. Both works *have elder teachers whom the young lead characters look up to*.

- In *This School Year*, Ms. Davis wishes to become tenured like the O.G. teachers;
- In *Abbott Elementary*, Ms. Teagues is constantly looking to the elder teachers for acceptance, she says to Ms. Howard, “Did you get my email about hanging together after school?”

Dialogue

7. Both works have characters who *sing the same Whitney Houston song* in the opening episodes.

- In *This School Year*, Mr. Ryan joyfully sings: “I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way. Show them all the beauty they possess inside!”
- Principal Coleman sings in the hallway of *Abbott Elementary*, “I believe the children are our future...”

Sequence of Events, Characters, Pace and Dialogue, Theme

8. In both works *the principals decided to bring camera crews into the school* to follow the teachers, students and administrators around. This is used to create the single-camera, cinema-verité look and feel for each show – an very unusual technique for TV comedies.

- In *This School Year*, Principal Lyons exclaims: “The camera crew will be here to document our journey this year and the progress we will make.”
- In *Abbott Elementary*, Principal Coleman proclaims: “Whatchya all think about this little film crew I brought in here...exciting! We about to be on TV.”

9. In both works, *the principals got their jobs through sex scandals*.

- In *This School Year* when asked about the departed Principal, Mr. Ryan replies “Apparently, he got another position at a better school, but I think he’s under investigation for a sex scandal with you know who.”
- In *Abbott Elementary*, Principal Lyons tells the camera, “I go to the same church as the superintendent...caught him cheating on his wife with the deaconess...I needed a job.”

10. Both works *have principals that are self-centered, self-involved, and work against their staffs to their own purposes*.

- In *This School Year*, Principal Lyons describes Ms. Davis as “our fabulous math teacher.” When Ms. Davis corrects her “I teach social studies” the principal replies, “that’s not important right now.”
- In *Abbott Elementary*, Miss Teagues tries to describe the principal, “Ava’s our principal, she has a unique take on her job.”

11. In both works, *the principals’ decisions are constantly undermining the efforts of the teachers*.

Character and Theme

12. In both works *there is a love interest who has an undeniable crush on the main character but is too shy to come out and say it*.

- In *This School Year*, the love interest is comically named Mr. Wright.
- In *Abbott Elementary*, the character with the crush on the lead is named Gregory Eddie. However, in one of the earlier drafts for *Abbott Elementary*, the character was originally named Gregory Wright.

13. Both works *have the same supporting characters for their leads*: white, second-year, history teachers who attempt to belong within the dominant black culture of the school.

- In *This School Year*, the white history teacher carries an urban dictionary to use slang. In one scene he must look up the word hater: “Hater – a two syllable...”
- In *Abbott Elementary*, the white history teacher talks about his trip to work in Africa. “Remember when I was in Zimbabwe working for Teachers Without Borders?” The lead character admonishes him to stop.

14. Both works *have characters that were passed over for the principal position*.

- In *This School Year*, the Assistant Principal states “I have served this school for a long time. You would think I would be given the opportunity to be the principal.”
- In *Abbott Elementary*, substitute teacher Mr. Eddie is introduced as a substitute teacher but tells the camera that he studied to be a principal. “I even interviewed here, and got it, but then, something happened.”

15. In both works, the lead characters are admonished by fellow teachers for their naivete and foolishness.

- In *This School Year*, Ms. Davis is told by her colleague “You came in here last year, trying to be the big sis cool teacher and look where that gotcha.”
- In *Abbott Elementary*, the elder teacher leans over to Ms. Teagues and says “How’s that optimism taste” after it is revealed the money for books and rugs was spent on the billboard.

16. Both works *have older, more experienced teachers who warn the lead characters* not to be taken advantage of by the system:

- In *This School Year*, Ms. Bees says to Ms. Davis “Don't make this administration and these kids run you.”
- In *Abbott Elementary*, Ms. Howard and Ms. Schemmenti caution Ms. Teagues about her rookie mistakes.

17. Both works *there is a tension amongst the young teachers that make up the trio of second years*.

- In *This School Year*, Mr. West is often annoyed by Mr. Ryan (the White teacher) stating “He is a pain in my side.”
- In *Abbott Elementary*, Gregory Eddie is often *Seen* being annoyed by Jacob (the White teacher). Gregory invites Janine out to eat and Jacob invites himself.

Gregory labels the trio the “after school crew” which establishes the trio. Gregory is visibly annoyed. Gregory abandons Jacob in the teachers’ lounge mid-sentence while Jacob says “that’s why you and me gotta stick together...like coffee and creamer.”

18. Both works use *African American slang as a prominent plot/character device*.
 - In *This School Year*, Mr. Ryan has an urban dictionary to look up slang. In the initial episode he looks up “Hater, two syllables – one who doesn’t like to *See* another happy.”
 - In *Abbott Elementary*, Ms. Teagues teaches a class on slang to her students.
19. Both works make *a joke about teachers going gray in their opening episodes*.
 - In *This School Year*, Ms. Davis is told by her colleague “You came in here last year, trying to be the big sis cool teacher and look where that gotcha, you’re growing gray hairs for crying out loud.”
 - Again, the reference to teachers growing gray hair is repeated in *Abbott Elementary*, when Ms. Barbara tells Ms. Teagues that “teachers are growing gray hairs because they cannot keep up.”
20. Both works *have older, more experienced teachers warning the lead characters not to be taken advantage of by the system*:
 - In *This School Year*, Ms. Bees says to Ms. Davis “Here’s a tip for you; rule number 1, be in on time; rule number 2, be out on time. Don’t you dare stay a minute later.”
 - In *Abbott Elementary*, Ms. Howard and Ms. Schemmenti caution Ms. Teagues about her rookie mistakes.
21. Both works *have Black Nationalist* characters.
 - In *Abbott Elementary*, there is a student who is a Black Nationalist who refuses to stand for the national anthem and raised his fist in black solidarity.
 - In *This School Year*, the character Dr. Black vents his frustration because the schools now use white boards instead of blackboards. Ms. Davis holds up her fist in black solidarity.
22. Both works *extol the multiple tasks teachers face for a low salary*.
 - In *This School Year* there is a speech by Ms. Davis about the multiple hats worn by teachers for only one salary that is copied nearly word for word in *Abbott Elementary*. In *This School Year*, Ms. Davis says, “We are teachers, counselors,

social workers, baby-sitters, parents, friends, referees all at the same time...one salary though.”

- In *Abbott Elementary*, Ms. Barbara says, “Janine, teachers at a school like Abbott... we have to be able to do it all. We are admin. We are social workers. We are therapists. We are second parents. Hell, sometimes, we're even first. Why...It sure ain't the money.”

EXHIBIT F

HARRITY (ABBOTT) ELEMENTARY PITCH/SCRIPT CREATION TIMELINE

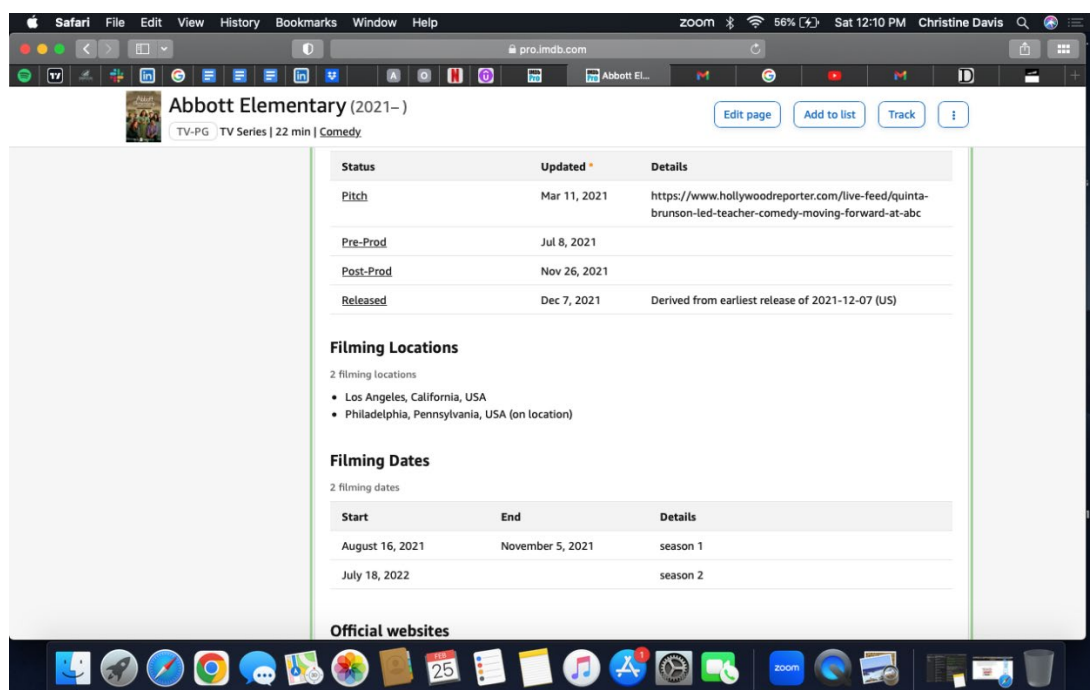
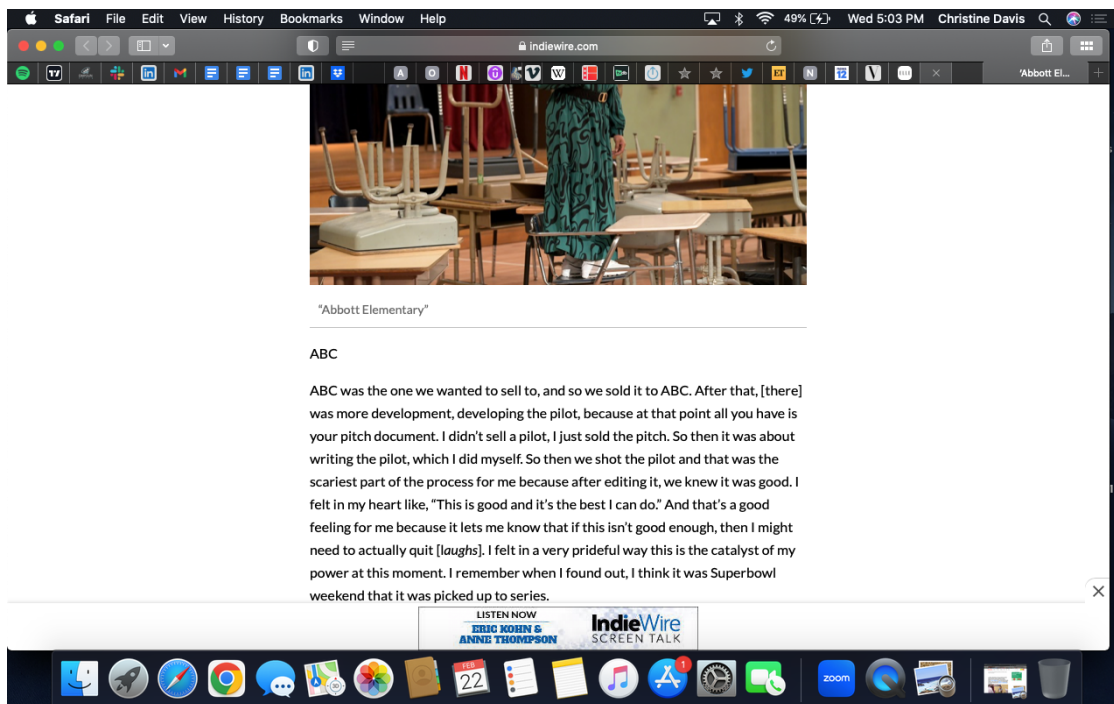




EXHIBIT G

DEFENDANT BRUNSON/WRIGHT BUZZFEED CONNECTION

3. Quinta's impact at BuzzFeed was almost instant. She wrote, produced, and starred in many sketches that mused on all kinds of topics, such as what relationships are like after the **honeymoon phase**, **being the only Black friend**, and the **advantages of being short**, from 2014–2018.



ADVERTISEMENT



staffmeup.com

Hire Find Work People Profile Rates What's New Join Free Post Jobs Free Log In

431,114 Freelancers at your fingertips
100% confidential
Post Jobs for Free

Summary

Shavon, a Line Producer, based in New York, has 16 Line Producer credits and 1 Head of Production credit, and has been a member since 2012.

Credits

Credit	Period
Line Producer – Untitled (Season 1) Hulu — TV — Lone Wolf Media	2/22 – 9/22
Line Producer – Wild Crime (Season 2) Hulu — TV — Lone Wolf Media	2/22 – 9/22
Line Producer – Wild Crime (Season 1) ABC — TV — Lone Wolf Media	7/20 – 1/21
Line Producer – <u>Wrong Man</u> (Season 2) Starz — TV — @radical.media	8/19 – 11/19
Head of Production Staff Position — alecia.com Details	6/18 – 5/19
Executive in Charge (EIC) Staff Position — Roller Coaster Road Details	12/17 – 7/18
Director of Production Staff Position — Atlas Media Corp Details	7/17 – 4/18
Production Consultant – Follow This (Season 1) Netflix — TV — BuzzFeed Details	9/17 – 12/17

• Created \$3.1 million budget for Netflix series In the Know • Articulated goals of the show's creative team to create efficient production schedule and elevate production value • Collaborated with BuzzFeed executives to launch weekly serialized show

EXHIBIT H

SYNOPSIS COMPARISON

THIS SCHOOL YEAR by Christine Davis

This School Year is a television comedy. The first season introduces the daily lives of school personnel, such as administration, teachers, and the students in New York City at P.S. 311. Principal Lyons convinces herself and the staff that the school is heading in a new direction and that the school is well controlled. To *Seek* more grants, she hires filmmakers to film a documentary of the school. This school has been around for several years, and teachers have come and gone. The new principal has an agenda she wants everyone to follow. However, the teachers, staff, and students have their own agenda, especially Ms. Davis, the main character, is trying to convince everyone else that the school needs to be reformed and secretly wants to secure her spot as a tenured teacher. However, her principal is constantly striving to convince everyone else that everything is under control.

ABBOTT ELEMENTARY by Quinta Brunson

A group of dedicated, passionate teachers -- and a slightly tone-deaf principal -- find themselves thrown together in a Philadelphia public school where, despite the odds stacked against them, they are determined to help their students succeed in life. Though these incredible public servants may be outnumbered and underfunded, they love what they do -- even if they don't love the school district's less-than-stellar attitude toward educating children.

EXHIBIT I

HARRITY ELEMENTARY SYNOPSIS

ABC has handed its latest pilot to Quinta Brunson's workplace comedy Harrity Elementary. The single-camera project scored a put pilot commitment in September and now will aim to film a pilot over the next few months.

PRIME TIME PILOT **PANIC!**

Your Complete Guide to Pilots and Straight-to-Series orders

[SEE ALL](#)

Created by, starring and exec produced by *A Black Lady Sketch Show* star Brunson, *Harrity Elementary* follows a group of teachers brought together in one of the worst public schools in the country simply because they love teaching. They will rely on one another to make it through the day and find a way to counteract the school district's bullsh*t attitude toward educating children.

Justin Halpern and Patrick Schumacker, who co-created and executive produce DC Universe's Kaley Cuoco animated comedy *Harley Quinn*, exec produce via their Delicious Non-Sequitur Productions banner.

The studios are Warner Bros TV, where Halpern and Schumacker are under a deal, and 20th Television.

EXHIBIT J

THIS SCHOOL YEAR SCRIPT

THIS SCHOOL YEAR

Written by

Christine Davis

Itschristnedavis@gmail.com
347-736-6491
Copyright (c) 2020

THIS SCHOOL YEAR

"PILOT"

FADE IN:

Opening theme song: 30 second montage of teachers being teachers.

INT. MS. DAVIS' CLASSROOM - DAY

It's 8:30 AM, MS. DAVIS, Black, 23, naive, bothered, unenthused at the moment, sits at her desk. She bangs her head against a book repeatedly. She stops for a few and ponders.

MS. DAVIS

(to the ceiling)

Why am I here? Do I not deserve more in life? I'm not trying to question you God. I mean, I'm just saying. I'm just asking you to get me through this school year...alive. No? OK.

(to camera)

You guys don't know what it takes to be a teacher. What we go through. What I go through. I love teaching. I'll do anything for my students but guys, I think I'm losing my mind.

She resumes to her head banging. MR. WEST, Black, 24, tall, joyful, sarcastic. He glides into Ms. Davis' classroom to greet her. He sees her in distress and he is concerned. He offers his aid immediately.

MR. WEST

Hey, hey, hey. Oh my gosh. Are you okay?

Mr. West grabs the book and checks if it has been torn. Ms. Davis' head is turned down not facing his direction.

MS. DAVIS

Yeah, I'm okay.

MR. WEST

Davis (beat) not you.

Mr. West pets the book.

MR. WEST (CONT'D)

You poor baby.

Revision

2.

Ms. Davis snatches the book back from Mr. West.

MR. WEST (CONT'D)

What are you doing? If you want a concussion, you have to bang your head a little harder. Gosh, I have to teach you everything. Look, like this.

Mr. West takes the book from Ms. Davis and attempts to bang her head against the book. She snatches the book back and shoves him aside. She screams from the top of her lungs.

*
*

MS. DAVIS

Leave me alone!!!

MR. WEST

Happy new school year to you too.

MR. RYAN, White, 24, a know it all, enthusiastic and really the type to get directly underneath your skin, even to the bones maybe. He walks in with half eaten fruit snacks, a notebook, and a pencil in his shirt pocket.

MR. RYAN

Oh she stopped? She's been doing that for a while now.

MS. DAVIS

Only 5 minutes.

He glances at his watch.

MR. RYAN

Actually 7.625 minutes.

MS. DAVIS

Fine!

MR. RYAN

I always win.

Ms. Davis gives Mr. Ryan a stern look and continues to bang her head on the book.

MR. WEST

Hey, hey, hey. Snap out of it. We are this much closer to the finish line. We just have one more year and booyah we are tenured baby. Then we can do whatever we want.

Ms. Davis rises up as if she is the head of an Italian mob. She circles the room and sets the tone.

*

INT. MOB SETTING - DAY

The background changes to a scene straight out of an Italian mob story. Ms. Davis gives her best Italian impersonation.

MS. DAVIS

That's a fact. We finally get to walk around with the OGs of the school. That means, we leave when we want. We take off days, without any questions. You get to fight evaluations...and win. They say knowledge is power. HAHAAHAA! Tenure is power.

Ms. Davis and Mr. West do their buddy handshake. Ryan looks on annoyed.

MR. RYAN

What's the big deal with getting tenured?

Ms. Davis and Mr. West in unison gasps out of shock. She continues on with her Italian accent impersonation.

MS. DAVIS

What's the matter with you? Are ya living underneath a rock? It's every teacher's dream. You're invincible. Mr. Jenkins promised he will give it to me. I deserve it. It's just the thought of another school year right now is killing me. You know?

MR. WEST

Davis, you can lose the accent now.

Davis looks on awkwardly.

INT. MS. DAVIS' CLASSROOM - DAY

Ms. Davis loses the Italian accent personation and the background scene changes back to her normal classroom settings.

*
*
*

MR. WEST

(beat) See Davis, you came in here last year, trying to be the big/sis cool teacher and look where that got ya? You're growing grey hairs.

(MORE)

*

Revision

4.

MR. WEST (CONT'D)

It's your second year for crying
out loud. I've been trying to teach
you the game but you don't listen.

MR. RYAN

Mr. Jenkins?? Davis, Jenkins isn't
here anymore. You clearly missed
the memo...per usual.

Ms. Davis slowly approaches Mr. Ryan and shoves Mr. West to
the side out of her way.

MS. DAVIS

What? What did you just say?

MR. WEST

I think he said, correct me if I'm
wrong, umm Jenkins isn't here.

He turns to Ryan.

That's what you said right?

Mr. Ryan gestures Mr. West is correct using his pencil.

MR. RYAN

Precisely!

It seems as if Ms. Davis was just stabbed in the back. She is
on the brink of tears.

MR. WEST

...and the oscar goes to...

MR. WEST (CONT'D)

(to Mr. Ryan)

She's so dramatic.

MR. RYAN

I've learned.

MS. DAVIS

(sobbing)

Where did you hear this information
from?

MR. RYAN

Take an educated guess.

Ms. Davis and Mr. West look at each other and nod.

TOGETHER

Teacher's lounge.

Revision

5.

MR. RYAN
Ding ding ding. So just like any
other day...

CUT TO:

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

Mr. Ryan stands by the broken copy machine. He makes himself
look busy. Two teachers eat their lunch at the table.

MR. RYAN
(voiceover)
I was minding my business making
copies...

Ms. Davis interrupts.

CUT TO:

INT. MS. DAVIS' CLASSROOM - DAY

MS. DAVIS
Ryan, you're lying already. The
copy machine doesn't even work.

Mr. Ryan thinks about it.

MR. RYAN
Okay, I wasn't actually minding my
business entirely.

CUT TO:

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

MR. RYAN
(voiceover)
I know around 12:30 is when the
heavy hitters hit the lounge, so I
decided to stroll on over to hear
the news for the day and that's
when I heard.

MS. DAVIS
Noo! This can't be true. Do you
know how hard I worked my ass off
last year? (beat) Why did he leave?

MR. RYAN

Apparently, he got another position at a better school, but I think he's under investigation for a sex scandal with you know who.

MR. WEST

Did they say who is replacing him?

MR. RYAN

According to the agenda, we should find out more about this surprise in the next couple of minutes.

Ms. Davis runs over to the trash can picks up the crumbled agenda. She screams.

MR. RYAN (CONT'D)

(whispers to Mr. West)

She's gone mad.

MR. WEST

What a shame.

Ms. Davis finally stops screaming. She is angry.

MS. DAVIS

That's what that is for? I honestly thought the surprise was for new textbooks, supplies...You know the necessities for our children.

MR. WEST

This isn't good.

MS. DAVIS

Exactly! How are we going to get tenured now? This school is always changing. Something new every minute. There's no consistency.

MR. WEST

No, not that Davis. Now, I actually have to start writing lesson plans. This is horrible. What do those even look like?

Mr. West takes the book and he starts banging his head.

MS. DAVIS

Give me the damn book.

Mr. West and Ms. Davis fights for the book. Mr. Ryan walks over to break it up but the entire ordeal is interrupted by the school's intercom. They freeze. It's the assistant principal.

AP JACKSON (V.O.)
Good morning everyone. Please report to room 110 in the next 5 minutes as if your life depended on it because it does. That is all.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Teachers of P.S. 311 rush down the hallway. Ms. Davis, Mr. West and Mr. Ryan walk down the hallway in unison in slow motion. They are calm.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Teachers and staff rush in to grab seats and the room begins to fill quickly. Ms. Davis spots MR. PETERPOT, White, middle-aged, lazy and he is already half-sleeping in the meeting. Ms. Davis stares at him. She is disturbed.

MR. RYAN
It's only 9:30 and Mr. Peterpot already pressed the snooze button.

MS. DAVIS
He gets away with that, you want to know why he gets away with that?

MR. RYAN
Let me guess? Tenured

MR. WEST
Ding ding ding. He's a G! You, on the other hand, will be burned out if you continue to take this job seriously.

MS. SNOW, White, 24, walks through the door and discretely finds her seat.

MR. RYAN
She's a new teacher. I can smell it. There goes your replacement Davis.

Ms. Davis watches as Ms. Snow takes out her books and pencils ready to take notes. Ms. Davis straightens out the crumbled agenda and flips it over. She pull the pen from Mr. Ryan's shirt pocket and prepares herself to take notes.

AP JACKSON, Black, middle-aged, no non-sense type of woman, never impressed unless she's doing the job herself walks in and takes the floor. Teachers settle down.

AP JACKSON

Welcome back to another school year
at P.S. 311. I'm delighted.

AP JACKSON cracks a fake smile and resumes back to her original demeanor.

MS. JACKSON

Let's just get right to it. Say
hello to your surprise, please meet
your new principal. Principal
Lyons.

PRINCIPAL LYONS, White, middle-aged, ditzy, walks in with a huge grin on her face.

PRINCIPAL LYONS

Hello everyone! I am so happy to be
apart of this school. I am truly
honored and thank you for welcoming
me. I can't wait to start this
journey with you all and get P.S.
311 back in the running for one of
the best schools in the district.
As part of the district's plan to
restore our school, we have been
appointed to roll out a new
initiative.

MS. BEES, Black, middle-aged, strong, fierce, straight-forward individual mumbles.

MS. BEES

I told ya they be on their B.S.
This is crazy.

DR. BLACK, Black, middle-aged, super conscious, his mindset is stuck in the 60's responds to Ms. Bees.

DR. BLACK

They took out the Black man and
brought in a White woman. Don't ya
see? It's a conspiracy.

PRINCIPAL LYONS

The camera crew will be here to document our journey this year and the progress we will make. It's all apart of a new initiative and a new grant. This school year is going to be amazing. After introductions, I would like for all teachers to prepare for their respective department meetings.

A camera crew walks through the door and immediately starts recording. Teachers react to the camera crew.

MS. DAVIS

Is she serious?

MS. PARACINA, Latina, 25, miserable, sassy, well put together, takes out her make-up and starts to apply her lipstick.

MS. PARACINA

I'm ready for my close-up.

Ms. Davis glances at Ms. Paracina in disgust. Ms. Paracina continues to fix herself up. Mr. Ryan grows concerned for Ms. Davis. He turns to Mr. West.

MR. RYAN

Seems like you're going to be fired real soon.

MR. WEST

Oh please. What about you?

MR. RYAN

Oh no, she's going to like me.

They both turn to Ms. Davis.

BOTH

Davis, can I have your desk?

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The camera crew is interviewing Principal Lyons. AP Jackson is a few steps beside her. Ms. Davis is seen in the distance decorating her bulletin board.

Principal Lyons' Interview:

PRINCIPAL LYONS

Hello, my name is Nancy Lyons and I'm just super thrilled to get P.S. 311 on the right track. I'm looking forward to watching our staff and students grow. It's going to be a wonderful year and many years to come. Our mission?

Stumped. She deflects the question for the first teacher she could find.

Oh, how about we have our fabulous math teacher share our mission? Ms. Davis...

Principal Lyons leads the crew to Ms. Davis as she is seen decorating her classroom board. Ms. Davis waves the camera off. She's reminded by AP Jackson, that it's the new order. Ms. Davis straightens up once the thought of tenure came to mind.

MS. DAVIS

Social studies. I teach social studies.(beat) Our mission is to create a generation of students who will be the leaders of tomorrow. (beat) Oh right now, I'm working on my door to help students...

Principal Lyon interrupts.

PRINCIPAL LYONS

Oh that's not important right now, we can get to that later. We have so much curriculum planning to do.

Principal Lyons laughs nervously. Ms. Davis lets out a sarcastic laugh. She watches on as Principal Lyons leads the camera crew down the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. MS. DAVIS' CLASSROOM - DAY

Ms. Davis' Interview:

MS. DAVIS

Hi, my name is Camille Davis and I'm a second year teacher.

(MORE)

Revision

11.

MS. DAVIS (CONT'D)

Last year, was quite the journey for me but I'm back another year stronger and wiser. This school year, I'm looking forward to growth and success with our students. I'm excited to be teaching social studies again. (beat)
You know, last year one of the deans thought I was a student, and had to call the principal to verify my status.

Ms. Davis laughs to hide the embarrassment.

CAMERA GUY

Is it true you were always written up and in the principal's office last year?

Ms. Davis is uneasy and is shocked by the question.

CUT TO:

INT. MS. DAVIS' CLASSROOM - DAY

MS. DAVIS

(directly to camera)

Now come on, I was a first year teacher. I had a lot to learn. Forgive me for what I've done. If you were a teacher, you would understand. I am not ashamed.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ms. Davis directs her attention to Mr. Ryan. The fruit snacks catches her attention.

MS. DAVIS

Where did you get that from?

MR. RYAN

They served breakfast.

MS. DAVIS

This is breakfast? This is a joke.
We are teachers, counselors, social
workers, baby-sitters, parents,
friends, referees all at the same
time...one salary though...and they
give us fruit snacks?

MR. WEST

They're serving lunch now. Can we
just go before it's all done?

Ms. Davis leads the group to lunch. Mr. West signals to Mr. Ryan to give him some fruit snacks while Ms. Davis isn't looking. The three make their way through the hallway to serve themselves food.

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

The three begin to greet other teachers. They tiptoe pass the main office to avoid the school's secretary, MS. PETTAY, White, middle-aged deceitful woman. Ms. Davis and Mr. West realize that they haven't officially clocked in.

MR. WEST

Did you move my card for me?

MR. RYAN

Yup, but I'm going to charge you
next time.

MS. DAVIS

Did you move mine?

MR. RYAN

Ugh! I didn't see it.

MS. DAVIS

Really? Just know, the "sending bad
students to my class" days are
over. Finito. Since it's clearly
every teacher for themselves.

MR. RYAN

(frowns)

I would like to renegotiate.

Ms. Davis straightens herself out and walks in. The other two watches the entire ordeal.

BOTH

...and action!

INT. MAIN OFFICE - AFTERNOON

She approaches Ms. Pettay's desk. Dr. Black is seen dumping white paper in the trash and looking for black paper.

MS. DAVIS

Good morning Ms. Petty, I mean Pettay, Pettay. Sorry...so sorry. Hard to pronounce sometimes. It's a long "a" I see. (beat) Did you see my card? Because I was here on time and I didn't see it. I figured I would just move it later, maybe it was mixed up...

MS. PETTAY

Save it Davis. We are going to start this school year on a good note. All you have to do is stay on my good side and of course show up to work on time.

MS. DAVIS

OK. It won't happen again. Thank you so much Ms. Pettay. I couldn't imagine working here without you. You're always looking out for me. (beat) You're going to order me a new white board right?

Dr. Black interrupts.

DR. BLACK

Why we have to call it the whiteboard? It use be called the blackboard. But you know what, the whiteboard ain't saying nothing til you add some dry erase markers of COLOR to it. Don't let that go over your head.

Ms. Davis uneasily throws up the black fist and redirects her attention to Ms. Pettay.

MS. PETTAY

Yup, I'm placing the order for you right now.

MS. DAVIS

You're the best. I'm going to grab some lunch before the department meeting starts. See you later.

Revision

14.

MS. PETTAY

No problem Davis. You're like one of my own.

Ms. Davis turns around and rolls her eyes, then smiles. She walks out of the office and makes a face to her friends. Ms. Pettay speaks out loud. She resumes back to placing her new shoe order.

MS. PETTAY (CONT'D)

She's not going to last this school year.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLYWAY - AFTERNOON

MR. WEST

...and scene. Great job. That was really good. Listen, I want to be your talent manager. You can make it in Hollywood.

Mr. West fixes Ms. Davis' hair and clothes.

MR. WEST (CONT'D)

Next time, deliver your lines a lot faster...because the food is running out for crying out loud. I hear they have bagels.

MR. RYAN

Girl, that was amazing. Are you sure, you're in the right profession? You should be an actress.

MS. DAVIS

Shut up, both of you. You know you have to fake it to survive here.

The three continue to walk down the hall and greet familiar faces.

Ms. Bees screams Ms. Davis' name from down the hall. Mr. Ryan and Mr. West quickly move along towards the food leaving Ms. Davis behind.

MS. BEES

Davis!! Honey, it's good to see you. So you decided to return and be back in the trenches. I thought I wasn't going to see you again.

(MORE)

Revision

15.

MS. BEES (CONT'D)

You see the B.S they are giving us to start the new year? Girl, I always tell you, don't make this administration and these kids run you. You run them. Don't worry, I'll be here for your support. Here's a tip for ya. Rule number 1, be in on time. Rule 2 be out on time. Don't you dare stay a minute later. Rule 3, if they have the audacity to even ask you to stay pass your contractual hours, you respond with one question "per session?" You understand?

MS. DAVIS

Yes Ms. Bees.

MS. BEES

Always remember they don't want you to have prep time but they want you to do overtime. Did you hear what I said? Say it with me.

BOTH

They don't want you to have prep time but they want you to do overtime.

MS. BEES

You got it?

MS. DAVIS

Yeah, thanks Ms. Bees. I appreciate it.

MS. BEES

Don't get got Davis.

Ms. Davis ponders on her words. She begins to repeat them to herself. Ms. Bees walks off towards the direction of the teacher's lounge. Ms. Davis catches up with Mr. Ryan and Mr. West. She glances at the table to witness the pathetic food that is lined out.

MS. DAVIS

I work too damn hard just to have some 1st grade snacks. C'mon man.

Ms. Davis goes to pick up one of the fruit snacks just to collide with MR. DONET, stubby who has a handful of them in his hands. He takes it out of her hand.

MR. DONET

Ahh! What? Don't give me that look.
It's every teacher for themselves.

She watches him walk off.

MR. RYAN

I told you to get lunch first.

Ms. Davis gives Mr. Ryan a stern look and snatches the fruit cup from him.

MS. DAVIS

Thank you very much.

MR. RYAN

You're not welcome.

MR. WRIGHT, Black, 24, tall, sweet, kind, generous, beautiful, english teacher, waited for his turn to get Ms. Davis' attention. He makes his move.

MR. WRIGHT

Hey Davis, I saved you a bagel. I know you love raisin bagels.

MS. DAVIS

Thanks, that was so sweet of you.

MR. WRIGHT

No problem. Catch you in the meeting.

Mr. Wright walks off from the group.

MR. WEST

I really don't see what you see in this man.

MS. DAVIS

You're such a hater.

MR. WEST

Hater?

Mr. Ryan pulls out his slang book and vigorously searches for the appropriate page.

MR. RYAN

Oh yes. Hater - 2 syllables. One who doesn't like to see another happy. I'm sure you can figure it out if you apply context clues.

A staring match ensues between the two.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

MR. LEWIS, Black, middle-aged, a genuine and caring individual is one of the school's janitors. He is stacking up the chairs in the room. He would do anything for the teachers who truly care. He exits the class and walks right into the trio.

MR. LEWIS

The three musketeers, starring the beautiful Ms. Davis as the ring leader. How ya doing woman?

MR. WEST

I actually thought I was the leader.

MR. RYAN

Oh heavens no. That would be me but this is why we need contracts, documentation. I don't believe I signed off on that either.

MS. DAVIS

Oh be quiet you two. I started this. There's no us without me.

MR. LEWIS

It looks like you're ready for this school year. 1 down and 29 more left to go right?

MS. DAVIS

Who the hell?

MR. LEWIS

C'mon, the kids love you.

MR. WEST

That's not what they tell me.

Ms. Davis shoots Mr. West a deadly stare.

MR. WEST (CONT'D)

Oh, they tell me how awesome you are all the time.

MS. DAVIS

That's exactly what I thought.

MR. LEWIS

C'mon, they love you and you're a great teacher. I know you came back for a reason, because they love you.

MR. RYAN

No, it was actually to get tenured.

Ms. Davis kicks Mr. Ryan in the leg.

MS. DAVIS

You know I love the kids. Last year was rough, but I'm feeling optimistic about this school year.

MR. LEWIS

How do you like your new desk? I put it in your room early this morning.

MS. DAVIS

I love it. Thank you so much Mr. Lewis. You're always looking out for me.

MR. LEWIS

Of course. Have a blessed day.

The three walk off down the hall. Mr. West suddenly remembers he hasn't started creating any lesson plans and runs into the lounge.

MR. RYAN

Miserable teacher approaching.
Proceed with caution.

Ms. Paracina looks at Mr. Ryan and greets Ms. Davis.

MS. PARACINA

You're back this year. I see.

MS. DAVIS

Yes. I can't wait for another great year of planning with you and our students.

MS. PARACINA

OMG. Me too.

Mr. Ryan stares at the both of them. Ms. Paracina walks off.

MR. RYAN

And....scene. You're a natural. I definitely think you're ready for the big screen.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ms. Davis and Mr. Ryan turn down a different hallway and Ms. Davis spots Mr. Wright and Ms. Snow. She immediately pulls Mr. Ryan back to conceal themselves. Ms. Davis pokes her head around the corner and Mr. Ryan pokes his head out afterwards. Mr. Wright shows Ms. Snow to her room door.

MR. WRIGHT

Let me know if you need anything.

MS. SNOW

Thank you so much. I will.

Ms. Davis and Mr. Ryan walk the other way.

MR. RYAN

I could imagine how that must feel to watch another woman come in and take your man, and maybe even your job soon. Do you want to talk about it?

Ms. Davis shoots Mr. Ryan a vicious look.

CUT TO:

INT. MS. SNOW'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Ms. Paracina walks into the classroom to greet Ms. Snow.

MS. PARACINA

You're one of the new teachers aren't you?

MS. SNOW

Yes.

MS. PARACINA

I could tell.

MS. SNOW

I'm thrilled for this school year.

Revision

20.

MS. PARACINA

Aren't we all? You're in for a ride
this year. These kids are horrible
and the teachers are even worse.

MS. SNOW

(uneasy)

Thanks for the tip.

Ms. Paracina gazes around Ms. Snow's classroom and notices
that she doesn't have a desk.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Mr. West frantically google searches for math lesson plans.
Mr. Ryan is seen cutting out paper people to represent his
incoming students. Mr. Ryan sings enthusiastically while he
joyfully cuts his construction paper.

MR. RYAN

I believe the children are our
future. Teach them well and let
them lead the way. Show them all
the beauty they posses
insideeeeeeeeeeeeeee.

The camera zooms in on Mr. West's face. He's annoyed.

Mr. West Interview:

MR. WEST

Thats why I need a break 24/7. He's
a thorn in my side. (beat) What's
that? I actually think this school
would suck without me.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. WEST'S CLASSROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Students are throwing paper balls. Mr. West is on his Ipad.

My students know I mean business.
We joke. But we get work done. And
most importantly, we learn.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB - AFTERNOON

Needs description

AP JACKSON

Hey guys, I'm asking that you all break off into your grade groups now to start planning curriculum.

Ms. Davis' Interview:

MS. DAVIS

I don't think the AP likes me too much. Maybe it's because I'm the youngest, and I challenged her evaluations. I call her Ms. Truncble. Haa, from the movie Matilda. Yeah, that's the only way I keep my sanity in here. She does look like her right? (beat)
Who do I think I am? Davis, Ms. Camille Davis.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB - AFTERNOON

Mr. West attempts to print out lesson plans. There's no paper in the printer. He frantically searches for paper. The camera pans to Mr. Ryan with a stack of printer paper staring at Mr. West with a vicious smile. He takes a sticky note writes his name on it and places it on top and smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ms. Davis is handing out the curriculum for the social studies department team.

INT. MS. DAVIS' CLASSROOM

MS. DAVIS

(directly to camera)

I really believe that I could run this school with my eyes close. I felt like I was running it last year. I don't know what this principal is going to do.

(MORE)

Revision

22.

MS. DAVIS (CONT'D)

Lord, why? I know I have sinned but why...?

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB - DAY

All teachers are in the computer lab and Principal Lyons is found standing at the front of the room.

PRINCIPAL LYONS

I've been informed that our budget for next year is contingent upon our performance this school year. Teachers will be held to higher expectations. Which I'm sure is no problem. I also want to focus on some areas where we could possibly grow. Any questions? Comments, concerns?

Ms. Davis' Interview:

MS. DAVIS

They need a mind like mine. I'm bringing culture back, building exemplar students. Most definitely qualified for tenure. Nobody is going to stand in my way.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Ms. Pettay welcomes Principal Lyons.

MS. PETTAY

Ms. Lyons, if you need anything, just let me know. Let me tell you what teachers to keep an eye on. I'm your sidekick.

PRINCIPAL LYONS

Oh lovely. Could always use the help.

Ms. Pettay's Interview:

MS. PETTAY

What teachers fail to understand is that I do payroll.

(MORE)

Revision

23.

MS. PETTAY (CONT'D)
So you better be nice to me. I have
access to all your files.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

AP JACKSON
How are you liking the vibe here?

PRINCIPAL LYONS
I love it. I think we are all one
big happy family. (beat)

The camera pans back and forth to show their distinct facial
expressions.

Listen, that reminds me...I know
you all have been given your
subject assignment. However, I made
some changes to a few. Wanted to
switch some things up this year.

INT. COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Mr. Ryan has his string of people cut together and he
stretches them out. Mr. West picks up a pair of scissors and
cuts each head off of the figures piece by piece. Mr. Ryan
watches them all slowly drop to the floor. Ms. Davis walks
into the madness. She chuckles.

MS. DAVIS
Guys, please. We're adults. Let's
do better.

MR. RYAN
I think he needs to take a leave of
absence from this
trio...indefinitely.

MS. DAVIS
Cmon, we have bigger things to
worry about. Please kiss and make
up. Thank you.

CUT TO:

Mr. Ryan's Interview:

MR. RYAN

Davis better stick with me, if she knows what's good for her. West is an outlier, anomaly, doesn't belong. I know for a fact that I will be tenured way before he does. I'll make sure Davis follow suit to get her badge. Then wal-lah. We are both stomping with the big dawgs. (beat) Did Davis teach me that? Well, yes! In fact, she did.

INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Ms. Davis is looking through her mail. AP Jackson hands out the new assignment to Ms. Davis.

MS. DAVIS

What? Are you serious. Ms. Jackson, you know Social Studies is my specialty.

AP JACKSON

It's not up to me. Thank your new boss.

AP Jackson's Interview:

AP JACKSON (CONT'D)

I served this school for a long time. You would think that I would be given the opportunity to be the principal. (beat) but I'm happy to see that they gave the leading post to someone more suitable for the position. I am delighted.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Ms. Pettay is seen snickering. Ms. Bees walks by and sees Ms. Davis in distress.

MS. DAVIS

She is evil.

MS. BEES

See, they know not to mess with me. I'm tenured baby. Not today.

Revision

25.

MS. DAVIS
I really can't believe this.

CUT TO:

Mr. Ryan's Interview:

MR. RYAN
I'm sure Davis may set the building on fire. Then we really have to call 911. She's not a happy camper. I feel for her. I totally do. I think she's mad at me because I now have social studies. But cmon' she told the students last year that Christopher Columbus was an ass hole. You're supposed to follow the curriculum. She didn't. Columbus Day is my birthday by the way.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Teachers are scrambling for materials.

AP JACKSON
We must move quickly. School starts in a couple of days. Soon, we will move into our respective department head meetings.

MS. BEES
This is how they are going to start getting rid of teachers. Holding us accountable but they really have to have a strong case against the tenured. As for you newbies...tread lightly.

Ms. Davis goes back to worried mode as she is not prepared for her newly assigned subject. Mr. Wright secretly admires Ms. Davis from across the room. He gets up and walks over to check in on her.

MR. WRIGHT
Do you need help with the planning?

MS. DAVIS
Yeah, sure. I appreciate it. I feel like I'm going to pull my hair out.

CUT TO:

Mr. Wright's Interview:

MR. WRIGHT

My name is Kel Wright.
I'm ready to hit the ground
running. Super excited and
charged...Who?

He chuckles.

MR. WRIGHT (CONT'D)

Davis? She's amazing isn't she? I
just love learning from her. They
way she always organize her lesson
plans. Her bulletins boards. They
way she keeps her class in command
is absolutely beautiful. The love
she has for her students. I thought
she did a great job last year with
the 7th graders. I think Mr. West
is a little jealous of the fact
that I like his friend.

INT. MS. DAVIS' CLASSROOM - DAY

MS. DAVIS

(directly to camera)

Ain't this some bull? I don't
deserve this. They don't want me to
win.

INT. MR. RYAN'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Ms. Davis is moving her head on side to side on the desk in
distress.

MS. WEST

This is just a test Davis. Snap out
of it.

Ms. Davis' Interview:

MS. DAVIS

This was purposefully done.

CAMERA GUY

What are you going to do if
Principal Lyons ask you to also be
the lead of a committee this year?

MS. DAVIS

It's not in my job description.

Revision

27.

MR. RYAN

I'm sorry to interrupt. It actually is.

Mr. Ryan refers to the P.S.311 Teacher Handbook.

It states teachers must commit to these activities...

MS. DAVIS

Why is he in my shot? I thought these were individual interviews not group sessions. (beat) Listen, I believe that she is out to get me. I'm not going to let her stop me from getting in the way of getting tenured. Oh, two can play that game.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Principal Lyons walks down the hall and greets Ms. Davis again.

PRINCIPAL LYONS

Hey, Ms. Davis, I was wondering if you can lead the school culture committee since you already have the cheer team and all.

MS. DAVIS

Hey Ms. Lyons. Of course. Step team. It's a step team. It is per session right?

PRINCIPAL LYONS

Oh no. It's not in the budget. Is that a problem?

MS. DAVIS

Oh no. Of course not. I'm looking forward to it.

Ms. Davis gives her a friendly hand gesture. Principal Lyons gives it right back. They go back and forth until Ms. Davis gives in.

MS. DAVIS (CONT'D)

I'm going to head to my room now and finish up this curriculum.

PRINCIPAL LYONS

Lovely.

Principal Lyon's Interview:

PRINCIPAL LYONS (CONT'D)

The most valuable people here at
P.S. 311 are the students. Our
students come first. Our
teachers...well are teachers are
second.

Ms. Davis walks into her classroom and slams the door behind her. She walks over to her chair and realizes her desk looks different because it isn't her desk. She realizes she's been jacked, as if the day couldn't get any worse. She screams from the top of her lungs and throws a book at the blackboard. The sign "Welcome to this School Year" falls to the floor.

FADE OUT:

EXHIBIT K

HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCRIPT

HARRITY ELEMENTARY

"Pilot"

Written by

Quinta Brunson

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

JANINE (late 20s, Black, ball of optimistic energy, quirky, bookish, ready to take on the world) is mid-lesson sitting with some 2ND GRADERS at their desks.

JANINE

Nina! Wonderful sentence structure.

(reading)

"My favorite movie is Toy Story and my favorite character is Woody."

(then, to Nina)

Me too. Well, I'm a Buzz girl. I like his ambition. BEYOND infinity? He dreams big.

Janine moves to another student, BRITTANY.

JANINE (CONT'D)

And Brittany- "My favorite movie is "American Gangster and my favorite character is Frank Lucas?" Ok, excellent performance by Denzel, but a little too colorful for the movie wall. What about... Moana?

BRITTANY

Ok. I like Moana!

JANINE

Okay! And I will be having a *third* talk with your mom about what you're watching at home!

Janine takes the papers to her desk. A student, SHAWN, yells.

SHAWN

Ow. Ms. Beeman, Andrew hit me!

JANINE

Andrew, apologize! I'm gonna count to three! One, two, three...four...

ANDREW shows no signs of apologizing. Janine keeps counting.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)

I'm Janine Beeman. Been teaching second grade here at Harrity for two years. As a product of the Philadelphia school system, I'm proud to say I survived, and can now teach here today!

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

TWO KIDS are sharing singular desks while learning a lesson. Janine holds up a HISTORY BOOK and shows the last page which reads: "CURRENT U.S PRESIDENT: GEORGE BUSH."

JANINE

Now, kids, there have been three presidents since this one. Old book. Here are the others!

Janine flips the page to show where she has printed out photos of BARACK OBAMA, DONALD TRUMP, and JOE BIDEN.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)

The main problem in this district is, yeah, no money. The city says there isn't any, but they're building a new half-billion-dollar Eagles' stadium down the street.

ANGLE ON: B-roll of the huge stadium being built.

JANINE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...Seems like they have the money. We just make do. The staff here is amazing.

- Shot of MELISSA PETERSON's (50s, very South Philly Italian, tough mob-wife energy) class. The classroom is well controlled. She teaches from the board.

JANINE (CONT'D)

They're incredible teachers.

- Shot of BARBARA WATSON's (50s, Black, motherly, confident, suffers no fools but is soft on the inside) class. She's reading to her kindergarten class.

JANINE (CONT'D)

I look up to them all.

- Shot of the chaotic classroom of MS. SCHWARTZ (20's, white, in over her head). Kids run and scream. Ms. Schwartz panics at her desk.

MS. SCHWARTZ

Sit... down!

A globe is thrown at her from the back of the classroom.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

Well, I look up to the older teachers. We younger teachers- still getting the hang of it!

- Shot of child setting a trashcan on fire. JACOB HILL (20s, white, painfully woke, a performative liberal cool nerd type) puts it out with a fire extinguisher.

JANINE (CONT'D)

If we don't wind up leaving.

- Shot of younger TEACHER holding a box of her belongings walking out the front door. She turns and gives a middle finger to camera.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Look- this school is rough, but I became a teacher to make sure students come out alive, and that ultimately means doing whatever I can to make this school a better place for these kids. And after learning a lot in my first year, subbing out therapy for axe-throwing...

INT. AXE-THROWING STUDIO - DAY

Janine throws an axe straight on the bullseye. She turns and gives a thumbs up to the camera.

AS WE WERE

JANINE

I finally feel on top of things.

Suddenly, Janine hears a whizzing sound in the background. We see a CHILD with his back turned toward Janine.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Jamar, what are you doing?!

JAMAR

The toilets don't work!

JANINE

And the rug was plan B?!

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Janine is rolling up the soiled carpet. Meanwhile, her students are occupied dancing to a video of 'Baby Shark'.

STUDENT 1

Janine, why are you putting the rug away?

JANINE

Erica, I told you to call me Ms. Beeman, Ok? I'm an adult, though, we're the same height. And we can't use this one anymore. There's a little too much pee on it. Even before Jamar did that.

STUDENT 2

Where will we sit for story time? And morning lesson?

JANINE

...I'll figure something out.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)

Losing the rug is a huge "L." Big deal. For primary classes, the rug is like a calm island among a wild sea. An oasis for the kids. Which I now realize is the opposite of an island. Okay, it's either land in water or water in land. Let's just say it's like Xanax. It's a big Xanax you can sit on.

Janine's kids start to run wild as Barbara enters.

BARBARA

Janine, turn that down. I'm trying to teach my kindergarteners the letter C, and they're distracted with that song. It's like "Back That Azz Up" for kids.

JANINE

Sorry, Ms. Watson- hey guys, sit down! This is not playtime. I'm counting! One, two...

The kids and continue to run wild. Barbara clears her throat.

BARBARA

And I'm *not* counting. SIT... DOWN.

The kids all find their seats immediately.

JANINE

You're so good at that, Barbara.
Can't wait to get there! Who's
watching your class, by the way?

BARBARA

No one. They're in a single-file
line in the hallway.

Janine peeks out to see Barbara's students.

STUDENTS

Good morning, Ms. Beeman.

Janine waves in awe. Barbara walks out, ready to take her
kids back to class, but Janine keeps talking.

JANINE

Incredible. You know, you remind me
so much of my favorite teacher from
3rd grade, Ms. Elliot. Good with
kids, well-dressed, a wizard with a
glue gun...

BARBARA

Well, that's sweet, Janine. Very
nice. Thank you-

JANINE.

I wanted to be just like her. I was
like... obsessed with her,
actually. In my report card note,
she wrote "A bit clingy. Needs
friends her own age." She was a
hoot. Anyway, Did you get my email
about getting together after work
to get drinks tonight?

BARBARA

No... uh, must've gone to spam.

JANINE

So weird how those do that with you
and no one else.

Barbara glances at the camera.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

Janine walks in. Jacob is sitting at a table on his phone.

JACOB

Janine! So, update... I quote
tweeted that Senator's tweet with
"Tweet this next to your hooker?"
and Rachel Maddow liked it, so I
basically work for MSNBC now-

JANINE

Jacob, I told you, if I cared about
Twitter I'd have one.

JACOB

Yeah... but... Rachel Maddow!

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

I'd say my closest friend here is
Jacob. And that's really only
because we came in together last
year with twenty other teachers.
We're two of the three left. So,
trauma bonding, I guess?

JACOB TALKING HEAD

JACOB

What's this for again? Oh, not HBO?
I'm sure it'll still be good. I'm
Jacob Hill. I teach history but
live in the present. Subscriber to
Shaun King's email list-

AS WE WERE

Janine stands at the table with Jacob, Pop-Tart in hand.

JANINE

Hey, you into cheesesteaks from the
corner store for lunch? I've been
craving uncleaned-grill meat.

JACOB

No, not there. The guy behind the
counter there calls me "white boy."

JANINE

Well, you're the only one for miles
so. It's like a term of endearment.

JACOB

No, because then everyone in the store laughs. Even the cat behind the counter kind of snickers.

JANINE

Then, why not just ask him to stop?

JACOB

I can't! It'd be wrong. There's an entire chapter in 'White Fragility' on this. Robin DiAngelo says-

JANINE

(seeing Melissa)

Melissa, could you tell Ta-Nehisi Quotes here that "white boy" is a term of endearment from the corner store people?

MELISSA

For Zach Ertz, yeah. But for him, it's an insult.

Jacob scoffs. Melissa laughs then clocks the camera.

MELISSA TALKING HEAD

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Ehh... Melissa... Peterson. Second-grade teacher. You Italian? No. You from South? Oh. You'se guys working with cops, you gotta tell me...

AS WE WERE

Barbara walks into the lounge and heads for the coffee.

BARBARA

Morning everyone.

JANINE

Morning again, Barbara! Would you like to join us for lunch? We're thinking cheesesteaks, but whatever you want is good too.

BARBARA

What I want... is to have my coffee in peace right now.

JANINE

Alright! Then I will circle back later! Guys, I need a new rug for my room. Mine is officially done.

JACOB

Ooh, same. I shook mine out and then all the asthma kids had to go to the nurse's office.

MELISSA

Mine is sprouting mushrooms but making for a good science lesson.

JANINE

Wait, if we all need new rugs, what if we just push to get some using school budget?

The teachers shrug in agreement. Barbara less so.

AVA COLEMAN (mid-40s, Black, aloof, loud, tone-deaf, always wants to be center of attention) enters wearing an "Eagles Stadium 2021 Sweatshirt" and a large hat.

AVA

What it do, baby-boos! What do y'all think of the little film crew I brought in?

MELISSA

Distracting. Makes our jobs harder.

AVA

But exciting! We'll be on tv!

BARBARA

...Because they're covering underfunded, poorly managed public schools in America.

AVA

No press is bad press, Barb. Just look at Mel Gibson. Still thriving! 'Daddy's Home Two' was hilarious!

Ava laughs. The teachers all look at Ava disgusted.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

Ava has a unique take on her job.

MELISSA TALKING HEAD

MELISSA

She's bad at her job. What's unique
is that she's bad at her job.

Ava shows the doc crew her TikTok account "principalmoves"
with videos of her line dancing.

AVA

I'm one of the oldest people on the
platform. Ain't that cool?

She then attempts to get a WORKING TEACHER to dance with her.

MELISSA TALKING HEAD

MELISSA

Just bad.

Ms. Schwartz enters the room, frazzled, and walks right up to
Ava.

MS. SCHWARTZ

Ava, can I talk to you? I need an
aide. I'm outnumbered, the kids are
crazy... One of them told me to
"mind my six" this morning. I don't
know what that means! I need help.

AVA

Calm down! They're just kids.
Besides, aides cost money. And we
don't have that. Do you want to
split your salary up and give it to
someone else? No? Didn't think so.

JANINE

Well, if we can't afford aides, is
it possible we could afford new
rugs? Might help with student
behavior! Clean classrooms lead to
clean... behavior? I think-

AVA

All I'm hearing is new, new, new...
need, need, need. But Barbara, one
of the best and most senior
teachers here, never complains.
Barbara, what is your secret?

BARBARA

Knowing there isn't much you can do
to help, Ava.

AVA
So understanding. Be like Ms.
Watson, people!

Ava gives a smile to camera and leaves. Ms. Schwartz sighs.

MS. SCHWARTZ
But... I'm not Ms. Watson.

BELL RINGS. Teachers head out. Janine comforts Ms. Schwartz.

JANINE
Try some counting exercises, Tina!
It works for me. Somewhere, between
one and forty, the kids calm down.

MS. SCHWARTZ
Okay. Any tips for when they bite
you and call you the B-word?

MELISSA
A kid bit me once and locked on. I
stared him right in the eyes and
said 'harder.' Establish dominance
early.

Ms. Schwartz runs out of the room. Barbara and Melissa laugh.

JANINE
You know, a little support might
help make things happen, ladies!

BARBARA
Baby, my support was going to do
about as much as that Target bra
you got on: little to nothing.

Janine self-consciously crosses her arms.

JANINE
It's not impossible to get stuff!
Melissa asked for new toy registers
for her classroom and got them.

MELISSA
Those aren't toys. They're real.

JANINE
Really? Then how'd you get 'em?

MELISSA
I know a guy who worked a Walmart
demolition. I got a guy for
everything. You need rebar?

BARBARA

Melissa's resourceful. Capable.
They can't teach that at UPenn.

JANINE

While I'm honored you remembered my
Alma Mater, Barbara, I feel the
younger teachers are capable...

BARBARA

Really? Then why is Ms. Schwartz's
hair falling out?

Barbara picks up a chunk of hair that fell where Ms. Schwartz
was standing. Janine gags.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Why does Jacob need a smoke break
every two seconds?

JACOB

Switched to an herbal vape, but ok.

BARBARA

And why can't any of you make it
past two years? More turnovers than
a bakery.

JANINE

Well, I'm different.

BARBARA

We'll see. Or, you'll crack. Like
the rest of em' do.

This sticks with Janine. Barbara and Melissa exit. Janine,
Jacob, and Ms. Schwartz remain.

JACOB

Ouch. I think we should still try
for rugs. I believe that when
people are unjustly oppressed they
shouldn't let others set rules...

JANINE

Jacob... what did I say about
quoting Malcolm X unnecessarily?

JACOB

You told to me stop.

JANINE (CONT'D)

I told you to stop.

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE
I respect Ms. Watson, but she's
wrong on this. And, look, I know
the newbie track record here isn't
great, but at the end of the day,
we're passionate and capable of
doing this job.

A ten-year-old student, MYA, bursts into the room.

MYA
Janine! Ms. Schwartz kicked Rajon
in the head and everyone is in the
hallway going crazy! Come look!

INT. HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Janine runs out to see students crowded around a hurt RAJON,
and Ms. Schwartz, who holds her ankle. Barbara breaks it up.

JANINE
What on earth happened?

MS. SCHWARTZ
He hit me first!!!

RAJON
Liar!

MS. SCHWARTZ
Oh, you little-

As the feud continues, Janine looks at Barbara, embarrassed.

BARBARA
I wonder if she tried counting?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Janine is ushering students back into their classrooms, giving a worried look to camera. The other teachers are helping, but also visibly concerned.

JACOB/MELISSA/BARBARA TALKING HEADS

JACOB

You do NOT hit a kid. It's like the one thing you don't do.

BARBARA

You can yell at them...

MELISSA

(stern)

Threaten them.

JACOB

Warn them about juvenile detention.

BARBARA

Closest I've come was maybe, a lil' pinch. But a kick? Whew, chile.

MELISSA

Threaten their parents.

JACOB

...You just don't kick a kid.

INT. HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Janine anxiously approaches the teachers.

JANINE

Look, maybe this wouldn't have happened if she had an aide.

BARBARA

This happened because Ms. Schwartz was bad at her job and went UFC on an eight-year-old.

Janine is discouraged by that response as Ava appears.

AVA

OK! So. Not good! Ms. Schwartz was out of line, and clearly not fit to handle her class.

MELISSA

You hired her-

AVA

So, I have done the right thing, which was to fire her immediately. Then, I realized it was only nine A.M, so I hired a sub. In the meantime, Mr. Johnson is watching her class. I-

JANINE

Wait... Mr. Johnson, the janitor?

CUT TO:

INT. MS. SCHWARTZ'S CLASSROOM - DAY

MR. JOHNSON (70s, tired-looking) writes the word "COLLATERAL LOAN" on the board. The children just stare.

BACK TO:

INT. HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

JACOB

I think we should maybe alert the school district of this. I mean, a child was harmed.

AVA

Aht-Aht! I handled this! No need for them to know a kid was "harmed" on my watch- the school's watch.

Janine looks at the camera.

JANINE

It's not handled. There's a 70-year-old custodian who voted for Kanye teaching social studies. We need help! I know there's no money but-

AVA

Ok, fine, alright?. Look, I'll make a *small* emergency budget request to the school district.

(MORE)

AVA (CONT'D)
We'll use it to get aides or
whatever else we need. Ok, happy
now?

Jacob nudges Janine. Janine realizes the opportunity.

JANINE
I have an idea for something else
we need! How 'bout-

AVA
Sure, sure, sure. Just email me the
request.
(to camera)
Another day of principal life! *I*
believe the children are the fu-tur-
rah...

Janine crosses to Barbara.

JANINE
Look at that! Ask and receive.

BARBARA
And it only took one of you
injuring a child. Congrats.

JANINE
(quick)
The why doesn't matter.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)
Finally, a real chance to get
something nice for this school! And
send an email? I don't want to
brag, but in college, I won the
Women's Socialist Club's 'Email of
the Month' award twice. Both emails
were to the dean about recognizing
us as a club. Second one worked.

INT. ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Teachers are between classes as GREGORY WRIGHT (20s, Black, handsome, a little self-serious and has a little trouble connecting with his emotions) walks in holding a briefcase.

GREGORY
Hello, I'm looking for Ms. Coleman.

AVA
(flirty)
Well, hello.

GREGORY
I'm Gregory Wright. The sub for...
(looks at paperwork)
the teacher who punted a student?

AVA
Oh, you're the sub! Forgive me, I
thought one of my colleagues here
hired a stripper for me, as a joke.

GREGORY
O...kay?

AVA
Everyone, meet Gregory! He'll be
taking over for Ms. Schwartz for
the foreseeable future-

GREGORY
For the day.

AVA
Right!
(whispers to Melissa)
I'd like to see his ruler.

Melissa scoffs.

BARBARA
Very nice to meet you, young man.

MELISSA
Nice to meet you, Ryan.

GREGORY
It's Gregory.

MELISSA
We'll see how long you'll be here
then I'll remember your name, Tim.

Jacob approaches out of nowhere, arms wide open for a hug.

JACOB
My dude!

Gregory rejects the hug, shakes Jacob's hands instead.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Keepin' it profesh' I like it! I'm
Jacob. Always great to see another
male teacher. Not many of us! Now,
I'll have someone to talk sports
with! You into women's tennis?
(smugly, to camera)
Or as I call it: regular tennis?

GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY
I came to Philly from Baltimore at
the start of the school year. I
interviewed to be the principal of
this school, actually. Was pretty
sure I was a shoo-in but apparently
there was someone better?

CUT TO:

INT. AVA'S OFFICE - DAY

AVA
I go to the same church as the
superintendent... Caught him
cheating on his wife with the
deaconess... I needed a job!

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Janine is typing up an email titled: "IS YOUR SCHOOL SICK?
TRY PRESCRIPTION RUGS!" Her students watch an educational
movie. Suddenly, they all yell "EW." Janine looks up to see
that a student, BRIA, vomited at her desk.

JANINE
Bria, What happened?!

BRIA
I threw up.

JANINE
Got that. Let's get you cleaned up.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Janine, holding Bria's hand, goes to push the bathroom door
open. At the same time, the door swings out from the opposite
direction and a frantic, wet Gregory exits with a child's
pants in his hands. Janine screams:

JANINE

Ah!! Random man! Child pants!

GREGORY

What? Oh, no-

JANINE

Security!

GREGORY

No! I'm Gregory! Look, I'm a sub
for Ms. Schwartz!

JANINE.

Oh! Okay... That's still not
explaining the pants! Security!

GREGORY

Stop! Look, one of my kids had to
go to the bathroom, so I brought
him. But then he accidentally
"went" on himself.

JANINE

Ohhhhhhhh. Hence the pants! Ok.

GREGORY

Yes. And if that wasn't bad enough
he tried to flush the toilet and it
shot water back up into the air!

JANINE

Oh, no one told you about reversy-
toilet! I'm sorry. Which student...
(looks into stall)
Antoine. Ok, don't worry.

Janine takes her scarf off of her neck, looking like she's
getting ready to handle the situation.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Antoine was in my class last year.
Pretty sure I have some spare
clothes left over for him...
Antoine, I'm coming in!

GREGORY

Ok. Thank you.

JANINE

Could you just... watch her...

Gregory, repulsed by the vomit, holds Bria's hand. Janine goes into the bathroom. When she comes out, Antoine is wrapped in the scarf.

JANINE (CONT'D)
I'll take him back to my class and
then have him go back to you, ok?

GREGORY
Ok. Wait... what's your name?

JANINE
Oh! Silly me. I'm Janine.

The two go to shake hands.

JANINE (CONT'D)
Oh. Oops.
(looks at her hand)
There's... pee.

GREGORY
(looks at his hand)
Yeah, vomit.

JANINE
(laughs)
Make a wish!

GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY
That was disgusting. But she seems
nice. Like a bathroom Superwoman.

INT. BARBARA'S CLASSROOM - DAY 2

Janine walks into Barbara's classroom excitedly.

JANINE
Mrs. Watson! Question for you-

BARBARA	STUDENTS
Equals four!	(unanimously)
	Equals four.

Janine realizes she interrupted a lesson. She calms down.

JANINE
Sorry! I just want to get your
expert eye on my email to Ava-

BARBARA

Janine, we're not getting rugs.

JANINE

Ms. Watson, I know you love to rain on parades, that's your thing, but have some faith! Ava literally said she'll get us whatever we need.

BARBARA

You think you're the first person to try to get things? You think we like sitting on nasty rugs and smelling dead mice in the walls?

JANINE

So that's what that smell is!

BARBARA

I've been working in the Philadelphia School district for twenty years. Harrity for fifteen. Ava's just the latest in a long line of principals who do nothing but make things worse. So take all that Disney princess energy and use it to do your job.

JANINE

This *is* me doing the job! I think the job means trying to make things better. It means putting pressure on our leaders to help us.

BARBARA

And I think the job is working with what you got so you don't get let down.

The loudspeaker "DING" goes off, followed by Ava's voice:

AVA (O.S)

(belches)

Ugh... that hoagie came back up...
Oh damn, am I on? Good morning, teachers. Please bring your students to the yard for a special announcement about some much-needed improvements to the school that I made happen!

JANINE

Ah! Ah! You hear that?! Optimism wins again.

(MORE)

JANINE (CONT'D)
(doing Ms. Watson
impression)
Thank you, Janine!
(back to Janine's regular
voice)
Oh, no problem Ms. Watson! I was
just doing my job. I won't even say
I told you so.
(back as Ms. Watson)
But you DID tell me so! You know, I
guess you are very smart and
capable and maybe I could learn
some things from you, Janine.

Barbara stares at Janine who continues her one-act play.

EXT. HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Teachers and students stand outside in jackets shivering.

JACOB
We couldn't have done this in the
Gym? My 'Members Only' jacket is
meant for moving, not being still.

Ava appears from around the corner of the building.

AVA
Over here!

The teachers begrudgingly lug their students toward Ava.

AVA (CONT'D)
The district was so moved by my
plea that they approved an
emergency budget and sent us the
money right away!
(applause)
I thought "We'll get the aides, get
the rugs, but then I thought- we
need something immediate!"

JANINE
Wait-

AVA
I always feel better right away
when I get my hair done. Thus, I do
better work, like I'm doing
currently. The Eagles are getting a
new stadium, and that will help
them play better inside of it-

JANINE
No, it won't.

GREGORY
Stadium can't make them the
Chiefs.

AVA
Fix the outside...
(points to hair)
Inside takes care of itself.

Ava points upward to the front of the building. A huge plastic sheet falls over the old Harrity Elementary sign. It reads "Willard R. Harrity Elementary" in green and white lettering. There is a photo of Ava leaning on the letters.

JANINE
A... plastic sign? How'd you even
get this printed up so fast?

AVA
My cousin, Michael, is a sign-
maker! He's real fast and gave me a
rush deal. Thank God we got three-
thousand dollars from the district
because I had to use all of it.

JANINE
You used all the money... on this?!

BARBARA
(to Janine, laughing)
Wanna do your little skit again?

INT. HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Janine, Gregory, and Jacob walk their kids back to class.

JANINE
I can't believe this! She spent all
the money on theatrics! I thought
this type of workplace betrayal
only came from white ladies!

JACOB
Maybe Barbara and Melissa are
right. We just need to do the job-

JANINE
No, they can't be right, ok? Ava is
the problem here. Not us! Where's
your Malcolm X energy?!

GREGORY
I just got here, but she's right.
This school needs order.
(MORE)

GREGORY (CONT'D)

You're never gonna get that with a principal like this:

Gregory shows a TikTok of Ava doing the Renegade dance.

JANINE

...Wait, maybe she doesn't have to be principal.

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Janine types an email on her computer furiously.

JANINE (O.S.)

I'm going to email the superintendent about this and everything that Ava's done today! She should lose her job! Ava can't win here, because then, Barbara's right. And if she's right, then what does that say about me? I'm not taking two L's today. Actually, it'd be three L's because I got a parking ticket this morning.

INT. HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Barbara and Melissa head out for lunch.

MELISSA

I'm going to Wawa. Hey, you want a pack of Christmas sprinkle Tastykakes? I know they're seasonal, but I know a guy.

BARBARA

No, chile. Thank you. I'm going to go get myself a salad from Mickey D's. I'm eating healthy.

Janine approaches the two from down the hallway.

JANINE

Hey, wait up! I'm going out to get lunch, too!

MELISSA

Where ya going for lunch pipsqueak, a bird feeder?

BARBARA

Figured you'd be working on your next miracle from Saint Ava.

JANINE

Ha-ha. No, don't think I'll need anything from Ava ever again.

BARBARA

...And what does that mean?

JANINE

Well, I emailed the superintendent and told him about how horrible Ava is. No way she doesn't get fired.

Melissa and Barbara stop in their tracks.

MELISSA

Oh, for the love of God!

JANINE

What?

BARBARA

Janine. The superintendent doesn't even see our emails, because he has them bounced back to the person in charge of wherever the email came from...

JANINE

Wait... person in charge... that means it went back to-

The "DING" of the loudspeaker sound goes off. Ava again:

AVA (O.S)

(stern)

Teachers. It has come to my attention that some of you, one of you, think it's ok to go over my head. I think we need to learn about trust.

Janine, Melissa, and Barbara slowly turn to see Ava in her office, staring at them, holding a microphone.

AVA (CONT'D)

So, over your lunch break- this lunch break-, which I know you all love so much, we will be having a "trust workshop." Where we learn how to respect each other, Harrity Elementary, and the chain of command. It's going to be FUN.

Janine gives a worried look to camera.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - DAY

Janine, Barbara, Melissa, Jacob, Gregory, and more staff sit in a semi-circle. Ava sits in the middle.

AVA

Thank you all for agreeing to be here, mandatorily. We're at a crossroads. This is a crisis.

JANINE

No, a crisis is eating the cafeteria pizza for lunch.

(takes a bite)

This just is yesterday's burgers mashed up and cut into triangles! Ugh. Wait, Jacob did you go to the corner store?

JACOB

(eating sandwich)

Yeah, the verbal harassment is worth it. I think it might even make it taste better.

GREGORY

Uh... why are we here?

AVA

Well, chocolate drop, I happened to learn that one of the people here doesn't respect me. But, it's not about me. If you don't respect me... how can you respect this school?

(then, off teachers' confused looks)

You can't... mathematically impossible...

JACOB

Who doesn't respect you... I mean... the school, Ava?

AVA

You know, I don't think that's important, Mr. Neil. We're going to make this a group matter, so as not to single anyone out.

GREGORY

That's nice.

AVA

Let's do some trust exercises where we say whatever we need to say out loud to each other no matter how critical. Let's start with Janine.

Janine gives a horrified look to camera.

GREGORY

Wait, so she'll get to say stuff about other people?

AVA

No, Hershey Kiss, we're going to say things to her. You're new... let me give you an example. Janine?

JANINE

(sighs)
...Yes.

AVA

You're over-energetic and annoying.

The teacher's scoff in shock.

AVA (CONT'D)

No! It's not bad! We're sharing with the goal of making us all better. Constructive. See, Gregory?

GREGORY

Yup, got it. No need to-

AVA

Why don't you try? Try on Janine.

GREGORY

I really don't want to do that.

AVA

You're right. Should be someone who knows her better. Barbara? Jacob?

BARBARA

Absolutely not!

JACOB

Her hair is... I mean absolutely not!

MELISSA

Ava, no one's gonna do this to anyone. I'd make someone cry or punch one of you in the face.

AVA

It doesn't have to be rude! That's what I'm saying! I'll prove it. I prepared for this. Come in, Sheena!

An eight-year-old student, SHEENA, comes into the room.

JANINE

Ava! That's my student! She should be at lunch!

SHEENA

I am kinda hungry.

AVA

Sheena, remember what we talked about? What's a thing you wish was different about Ms. Beeman?

Sheena looks shyly around the room. Mr. Johnson, the janitor, who has been standing in the background all along speaks up.

MR. JOHNSON

She got some big feet.

Janine stands up.

JANINE

Ok, That's enough. Everyone, I am the person who "disrespected" Ava. I emailed the superintendent to tell him that Ava spent the school's money on a sign. I'm sorry, Ava. I'm sorry everyone missed lunch. Especially Sheena. But, I did it because I care about kids in this school, that shouldn't be a bad thing...

Janine sadly storms out of the room. Everyone is quiet.

AVA

(to group, sotto)
...Not a compelling speaker.
Charisma vacuum.

Barbara stares at Ava, shakes her head, and stands up.

BARBARA

You know what, Ava. Janine's a lot of things. Naive, overbearing-

AVA

Ooh, let me call her back in for this-

BARBARA

But... she's also right. *Wanting* to actually help these kids shouldn't be a bad thing. I've worked in this school district so long, I... might've forgotten that.

Barbara walks out. Melissa and the others get up too.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

And where is everyone going?

JACOB

To check on Janine!

MELISSA

To lunch... check on Janine.

INT. HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Janine stands outside the door of her classroom peering through the small glass window. Barbara and the other teachers walk up to her.

BARBARA

Janine, ignore Ava. And big feet are a sign of fertility-

JANINE

Every lunch period, Barbara.

Janine points through the small window. Barbara walks up to her. We see a small boy, JAMAL, sleeping on the floor.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Every single one, Jamal comes and naps on the rug. He comes from a rough home-

BARBARA

Yeah, he was in my class. Mom's got a lot of kids. Dad's not around. When he is, the parents fight.

JANINE

Right, right. So he doesn't get much sleep. Used to fall asleep during morning lesson.

(MORE)

JANINE (CONT'D)

So, I told him if he stays up, he can take a nap during lunch. I tell him to sleep at his desk, but he says the rug's softer. Softer than his bed at home.

Barbara's look softens to Janine.

JANINE (CONT'D)

I don't care whether you think I'm good at this anymore. I care about whether or not I can make change. At Harrity. Where it's needed most.

BARBARA

Janine, teachers at a school like Harrity have to do be able to do it all. We're admin. We're therapists. We're social workers. We're second parents. Sometimes, first. Why? Sure as hell not the pay.

The teachers ad-lib agreements ending with Janine:

JANINE

My bathroom and kitchen are basically one room.

MELISSA

We do this because we're supposed to. It's a calling. You answered.

JANINE

Wow, I don't know what to say.

JACOB

I believe it was brother Cornel West who—

JANINE

Don't.

BARBARA

I suggest we put our money together and get Janine a rug. What ya'll think?

JANINE

No! You guys can't do that. You don't have it. I know because I have the same salary as you all and my account's in overdraft thanks to that pesky Netflix payment. There has to be another way.

BARBARA

Well, the school's not giving you
money, and you won't take ours.
What, you gonna steal a rug?

JANINE

Not me... but I know a guy who
knows a guy.

Janine turns to Melissa.

MELISSA

Let me see what I can do.

EXT. EAGLES STADIUM BUILD - DAY

The teachers stand outside of a loading dock at the stadium.
A SHADY MAN comes out of a side door with a rolled-up mat. He
hands it to Janine.

SHADY MAN

Alright, here ya go.

JANINE

Perfect, thank you so much!

Janine unrolls it to see that it's a huge Eagles logo rug.

SHADY MAN

Swiped that from the VIP suites.
I'll just tell them it got lost-

A second CONSTRUCTION WORKER comes out from the loading dock.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER

What the hell is going on here?

Everyone freezes. They don't know what to say. Janine steps
forward.

JANINE

Sir, I'm a teacher named Janine.

MELISSA

(through gritted teeth)
Don't use your name.

JANINE

I'm not going to lie. We're
stealing a rug from you. When I was
a kid, school was my ocean to other
worlds. I was a ship. And teachers
were my rudders.

(MORE)

JANINE (CONT'D)

Without them, I don't know where I'd be right now. So we're just trying to be good rudders. It's hard to explain, but these rugs are islands-

CONSTRUCTION WORKER

You're bad at giving speeches, but I get it. A teacher changed my life, too. Take it. Hell, take a couple.

The teachers all smile excitedly and take rugs as Melissa grabs something off the truck.

JACOB

Hey, mad props, my fellow!

CONSTRUCTION WORKER

Thanks, white boy.

JACOB

...Even the white guys now?

INT. HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

The teachers all walk through the hallway with their new rugs.

BARBARA

Ha-ha! These are nice. Thank you, Melissa. And... thank you, Janine.

JANINE

You're welcome. Feels good!

MELISSA

To finally get something you asked for in this hell-hole?

JANINE

No... to finally feel like a teacher.

MELISSA

Wait till ya realize you'll never own a home. You'll be over the moon.

Melissa, Barbara, and Jacob walk off leaving Janine and Gregory.

JANINE

Hey! Sorry we didn't get to hang more today. I... had to rob a construction worker.

GREGORY

No problem, it was nice to watch a teacher work. Made me see how rewarding this job can be. But if the police come asking me about these rugs I'm snitching.

JANINE

Well, thank you. And look, I know you said you're a sub, but I hope you stay. For the kids, I mean. They don't need any more turnovers.

GREGORY

Right. I'll stick around. For the kids.

JANINE

Good. And maybe we can get lunch next week!

GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY

I can put up with the bodily fluids a little longer. At least until next week.

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Janine lays out her new rug onto the floor. Her kids sit on it and she reads them a story.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

Today, was hard. Not my hardest day here, though. Last year, I wore squeaky sneakers. The kids called me "Fart Feet." I cried in the supply closet. But today made me better, I think. Better at this job. I learned teachers really are the only ones that can make change.

- Janine is watching a YouTube tutorial on her knees trying to fix the reversy-toilet.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)
Money would still be nice, though.

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

As Janine is packing up to leave, Ava walks into her room.

JANINE
Oh. Ava... I'm sorry about earlier-

AVA
(angry)
Janine.
(then, happy)
Thank you so much for this limited
edition Eagles' Swoop Jockstrap!

JANINE
Oh... I didn't...

AVA
Don't be coy! It's not cute!
Really, my least favorite thing
about you! And that's saying
something. Barbara and Melissa told
me how all of you left that meeting
to get me this to apologize for
being vicious backstabbers!

Behind Ava at the door, Melissa and Barbara walk by. Barbara gives Janine a wink.

BARBARA AND MELISSA TALKING HEAD

MELISSA
Swiped that from off the truck when
the construction workers weren't
looking. Told her Jalen Hurts wore
it in a game.

BARBARA
Another key to making it in this
job- learn to make your incompetent
boss feel special. Janine will get
the hang of that, too.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

EXT. HARRITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - NIGHT

Mr. Johnson films Ava doing a line-dancing TikTok.

MR. JOHNSON TALKING HEAD

MR. JOHNSON
She don't know this, but I go viral
every week on my own page:
Mrcleanphilly. Follow me.

- Shot of Mr. Johnson break dancing in the school hallway on his TikTok page. GRITTY enters. This is a sponsored video.